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By the Committee on General Government Appropriations and Representatives Westbrook, Wiles and Smith

A bill to be entitled An act relating to counties; repealing s. 327, ch. 96-410, Laws of Florida, which provides that once a small county meets the population requirements and qualifies for programs under ss. 40.015, 163.05, 163.3177, 163.3191, 212.055, 218.075, 218.65, 252.373, 265.2861, 403.706, and 403.7095, F.S., it shall retain that qualification until it exceeds a population of 75,000; amending the following provisions to increase from 50,000 to 75,000 the maximum population limit to qualify as a small county: s. 163.05, F.S., which establishes a technical assistance program for small counties; s. 163.3177, F.S., which provides that certain elements of a local government comprehensive plan are optional for small counties; s. 163.3191, F.S., which authorizes the state land planning agency to enter into agreements with small counties to focus on selected issues or elements when updating their comprehensive plans; s. 165.061, F.S., which provides population requirements for incorporation of municipalities in small counties; s. 212.055, F.S., which authorizes certain small counties to use proceeds of the local government infrastructure surtax for long-term maintenance costs associated with landfill closure; s. 252.373, F.S., which provides criteria small counties must meet to qualify for funds from the Emergency

1 Management, Preparedness, and Assistance Trust 2 Fund; s. 288.063, F.S., which provides that certain small counties are qualified for 3 contracts with the Office of Tourism, Trade, 4 5 and Economic Development for transportation 6 projects; s. 373.441, F.S., which requires 7 consideration of special provisions when an 8 environmental resource permit program is 9 delegated to small counties; s. 403.4131, F.S., 10 which encourages a regional approach to litter control and prevention programs in small 11 counties; s. 403.706, F.S., which authorizes 12 13 small counties to provide their residents with 14 the opportunity to recycle in lieu of achieving 15 solid waste reduction goals; and s. 403.719, F.S., which provides use of waste tire grants 16 17 by small counties; amending s. 403.7061, F.S., 18 to conform; amending s. 163.3187, F.S.; 19 revising conditions under which a small scale 20 development amendment to a local government 21 comprehensive plan may be adopted, to provide certain maximum acreage requirements for 22 23 certain counties; amending s. 218.075, F.S.; revising provisions which authorize the 24 25 Department of Environmental Protection and 26 water management districts to waive or reduce 27 permit processing fees for small counties under 28 certain conditions, to revise population 29 requirements; amending s. 218.65, F.S., 30 relating to emergency and supplemental distributions from the Local Government

Half-cent Sales Tax Clearing Trust Fund; revising the population limitation for purposes of provisions which exempt small counties from certain criteria imposed to qualify for an emergency distribution; deleting a requirement that a county must be eligible for an emergency distribution in order to qualify for a supplemental distribution; amending ss. 259.032 and 373.59, F.S.; removing 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 from funds in the Conservation and Recreation Lands Trust Fund or Water Management Lands Trust Fund for tax losses incurred as a result of acquisitions under the Florida Preservation 2000 Program; revising provisions which limit the number of years such payments may be made; amending s. 403.7095, F.S.; revising the population limitation for purposes of provisions which authorize annual solid waste and recycling grants to small counties and deleting the expiration date for such grants; providing an effective date.

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

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Section 1. <u>Section 327 of chapter 96-410, Laws of Florida, is hereby repealed.</u>

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

- 163.05 Small County Technical Assistance Program. --
- (3) The purpose of this section is to provide technical assistance to small counties to enable them to implement workable solutions to financial and administrative problems. As used in this section, "small county" means a county that has a population of 75,000 50,000 or less.

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

- 163.3177 Required and optional elements of comprehensive plan; studies and surveys.--
- (6) In addition to the requirements of subsections (1)-(5), the comprehensive plan shall include the following elements:
- (i) The optional elements of the comprehensive plan in paragraphs (7)(a) and (b) are required elements for those municipalities units of local government having populations greater than 50,000, and those counties having populations greater than 75,000, as determined under s. 186.901.

Section 4. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section 163.3187, Florida Statutes, 1996 Supplement, is amended to read:

163.3187 Amendment of adopted comprehensive plan. --

- (1) Amendments to comprehensive plans adopted pursuant to this part may be made not more than two times during any calendar year, except:
- (c) Any local government comprehensive plan amendments directly related to proposed small scale development activities may be approved without regard to statutory limits on the frequency of consideration of amendments to the local

comprehensive plan. A small scale development amendment may be adopted only under the following conditions:

- 1. The proposed amendment involves a use of 10 acres or fewer and:
- a. The cumulative annual effect of the acreage for all small scale development amendments adopted by the local government shall not exceed:
- (I) A maximum of 120 acres in a local government that contains areas specifically designated in the local comprehensive plan for urban infill, urban redevelopment, or downtown revitalization as defined in s. 163.3164, transportation concurrency exception areas approved pursuant to s. 163.3180(5), or regional activity centers and urban central business districts approved pursuant to s. 380.06(2)(e); however, amendments under this paragraph may be applied to no more than 60 acres annually of property outside the designated areas listed in this sub-sub-subparagraph.
- (II) A maximum of 80 acres in a local government that does not contain any of the designated areas set forth in sub-sub-subparagraph (I).
- (III) A maximum of 120 acres in a county established pursuant to s. 9, Art. VIII of the Constitution of 1885.
- b. The proposed amendment does not involve the same property granted a change within the prior 12 months.
- c. The proposed amendment does not involve the same owner's property within 200 feet of property granted a change within the prior 12 months.
- d. The proposed amendment does not involve a text change to the goals, policies, and objectives of the local government's comprehensive plan, but only proposes a land use

change to the future land use map for a site-specific small scale development activity.

- e. The property that is the subject of the proposed amendment is not located within an area of critical state concern.
- f. If the proposed amendment involves a residential land use, the residential land use has a density of 10 units or less per acre, except that this limitation does not apply to small scale amendments described in sub-sub-subparagraph a.(I) that are designated in the local comprehensive plan for urban infill, urban redevelopment, or downtown revitalization as defined in s. 163.3164, transportation concurrency exception areas approved pursuant to s. 163.3180(5), or regional activity centers and urban central business districts approved pursuant to s. 380.06(2)(e).
- 2.a. A local government that proposes to consider a plan amendment pursuant to this paragraph is not required to comply with the procedures and public notice requirements of s. 163.3184(15)(c) for such plan amendments if the local government complies with the provisions in s. 125.66(4)(a) for a county or in s. 166.041(3)(c) for a municipality. If a request for a plan amendment under this paragraph is initiated by other than the local government, public notice is required.
- b. The local government shall send copies of the notice and amendment to the state land planning agency, the regional planning council, and any other person or entity requesting a copy. This information shall also include a statement identifying any property subject to the amendment that is located within a coastal high hazard area as identified in the local comprehensive plan.

3. Small scale development amendments adopted pursuant to this paragraph require only one public hearing before the governing board, which shall be an adoption hearing as described in s. 163.3184(7), and are not subject to the requirements of s. 163.3184(3)-(6) unless the local government elects to have them subject to those requirements.

Section 5. Paragraph (a) of subsection (12) of section 163.3191, Florida Statutes, 1996 Supplement, is amended to read:

163.3191 Evaluation and appraisal of comprehensive plan.--

(12)(a) The state land planning agency may enter into a written agreement with a municipality of fewer than 5,000 residents or a county with fewer than 75,000 50,000 residents so that such a jurisdiction may focus planning resources on selected issues or elements when updating its plan, if the local government includes such a request in its report and the agency approves the request. Approval of the request does not authorize the local government to repeal or render ineffective any existing portion or element of its local plan.

Section 6. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 165.061, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

- (1) The incorporation of a new municipality, other than through merger of existing municipalities, must meet the following conditions in the area proposed for incorporation:
- (b) It must have a total population, as determined in the latest official state census, special census, or estimate of population, in the area proposed to be incorporated of at least 1,500 persons in counties with a population of 75,000 or

less than 50,000, and of at least 5,000 population in counties with a population of more than 75,000 50,000.

Section 7. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section 212.055, Florida Statutes, 1996 Supplement, is amended to read:

212.055 Discretionary sales surtaxes; legislative intent; authorization and use of proceeds.—It is the legislative intent that any authorization for imposition of a discretionary sales surtax shall be published in the Florida Statutes as a subsection of this section, irrespective of the duration of the levy. Each enactment shall specify the types of counties authorized to levy; the rate or rates which may be imposed; the maximum length of time the surtax may be imposed, if any; the procedure which must be followed to secure voter approval, if required; the purpose for which the proceeds may be expended; and such other requirements as the Legislature may provide. Taxable transactions and administrative procedures shall be as provided in s. 212.054.

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

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

- 2. For the purposes of this paragraph,
 "infrastructure" means:
- a. Any fixed capital expenditure or fixed capital outlay associated with the construction, reconstruction, or improvement of public facilities which have a life expectancy of 5 or more years and any land acquisition, land improvement, design, and engineering costs related thereto.
- b. A fire department vehicle, an emergency medical service vehicle, a sheriff's office vehicle, a police department vehicle, or any other vehicle, and such equipment necessary to outfit the vehicle for its official use or equipment that has a life expectancy of at least 5 years.

Section 8. Section 218.075, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

218.075 Reduction or waiver of permit processing fees.--Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Department of Environmental Protection and the water management districts shall reduce or waive permit processing fees for counties with a population of 50,000 or less on April 1, 1994, and municipalities with a population of 25,000 or less, or any county or municipality not included within a

metropolitan statistical area. Fee reductions or waivers shall be approved on the basis of fiscal hardship or environmental need for a particular project or activity. The governing body must certify that the cost of the permit processing fee is a fiscal hardship due to one of the following factors:

- (1) Per capita taxable value is less than the statewide average for the current fiscal year;
- (2) Percentage of assessed property value that is exempt from ad valorem taxation is higher than the statewide average for the current fiscal year;
- (3) Any condition specified in s. 218.503, that determines a state of financial emergency;
- (4) Ad valorem operating millage rate for the current fiscal year is greater than 8 mills; or
- (5) A financial condition that is documented in annual financial statements at the end of the current fiscal year and indicates an inability to pay the permit processing fee during that fiscal year.

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

Section 9. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) and paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of section 218.65, Florida Statutes, 1996 Supplement, are amended to read:

218.65 Emergency distribution.--

(2) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that a fiscal emergency exists in any county which meets the criteria

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specified in paragraph (a), if applicable, and the criterion specified in paragraph (b):

- (a) If the county has a population of 50,000 or above on October 1, 1996:
- 1. In any year from 1977 to 1981, inclusive, the value of net new construction and additions placed on the tax roll for that year was less than 2 percent of the taxable value for school purposes on the roll for that year, exclusive of such net value; or
- 2. The percentage increase in county taxable value from 1979 to 1980, 1980 to 1981, or 1981 to 1982 was less than 3 percent.
- (7)(a) Any county eligible for an emergency distribution pursuant to this section the inmate population of which in any year is greater than 7 percent of the total population of the county is eligible for a supplemental distribution for that year from funds expressly appropriated therefor. At the beginning of each fiscal year, the Department of Revenue shall calculate a supplemental allocation for each eligible county equal to the current per capita limitation pursuant to subsection (4) times the inmate population of the county. If moneys appropriated for distribution pursuant to this section for the current year are less than the sum of supplemental allocations, each eligible county shall receive a share of the appropriated amount proportional to its supplemental allocation. Otherwise, each shall receive an amount equal to its supplemental allocation. Section 10. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section 252.373, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

252.373 Allocation of funds; rules.--

- (3) The department shall allocate funds from the Emergency Management, Preparedness, and Assistance Trust Fund to local emergency management agencies and programs pursuant to criteria specified in rule. Such rules shall include, but are not limited to:
- (a) Requiring that, at a minimum, a local emergency management agency either:
- 1. Have a program director who works at least 40 hours a week in that capacity; or
- 2. If the county has fewer than 75,000 50,000 population or is party to an interjurisdictional emergency management agreement entered into pursuant to s. 252.38(3)(b), that is recognized by the Governor by executive order or rule, have an emergency management coordinator who works at least 20 hours a week in that capacity.

Section 11. Paragraphs (b) and (e) of subsection (12) of section 259.032, Florida Statutes, 1996 Supplement, are amended to read:

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

(12)

- (b) Payment in lieu of taxes shall be available:
- 1. To counties which levy an ad valorem tax of at least 9 mills or the amount of the tax loss from all completed Preservation 2000 acquisitions in the county exceeds 0.01 percent of the county's total taxable value, and have a population of 75,000 or less, and
- 2. To counties with a population of less than 100,000 which contain all or a portion of an area of critical state concern designated pursuant to chapter 380 and to local governments within such counties.

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

(e) The payment amount shall be based on the average amount of actual taxes paid on the property for the 3 years preceding acquisition. Applications for payment in lieu of taxes shall be made no later than January 31 of the year following acquisition. No payment in lieu of taxes shall be made for properties which were exempt from ad valorem taxation for the year immediately preceding acquisition. If property which was subject to ad valorem taxation was acquired by a tax-exempt entity for ultimate conveyance to the state under this chapter, payment in lieu of taxes shall be made for such property based upon the average amount of taxes paid on the property for the 3 years prior to its being removed from the tax rolls. The department shall certify to the Department of Revenue those properties that may be eligible under this provision. Payment in lieu of taxes shall be limited to a total of 10 consecutive years of annual payments, beginning the year a local government becomes eligible.

Section 12. Paragraphs (b) and (d) of subsection (14) of section 373.59, Florida Statutes, 1996 Supplement, are amended to read:

373.59 Water Management Lands Trust Fund.--

28 (14)

(b) Payment in lieu of taxes shall be available to counties $\underline{\text{with a}}$ for each year in which the levy of ad valorem tax is at least 9 mills or the amount of the tax loss from all

completed Preservation 2000 acquisitions in the county exceeds 0.01 percent of the county's total taxable value, and the population of is 75,000 or less, and to counties with a population of less than 100,000 which contain all or a portion of an area of critical state concern designated pursuant to chapter 380.

(d) The payment amount shall be based on the average amount of actual taxes paid on the property for the 3 years immediately preceding acquisition. For lands purchased prior to July 1, 1992, applications for payment in lieu of taxes shall be made to the districts by January 1, 1993. For lands purchased after July 1, 1992, applications for payment in lieu of taxes shall be made no later than January 31 of the year following acquisition. No payment in lieu of taxes shall be made for properties which were exempt from ad valorem taxation for the year immediately preceding acquisition. Payment in lieu of taxes shall be limited to a period of 10 consecutive years of annual payments, beginning the year a local government becomes eligible.

Section 13. Subsection (3) of section 288.063, Florida Statutes, 1996 Supplement, is amended to read:

288.063 Contracts for transportation projects.--

(3) With respect to any contract executed pursuant to this section, the term "transportation project" means a transportation facility as defined in s. 334.03(31) which is necessary in the judgment of the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development to facilitate the economic development and growth of the state. Except for applications received prior to July 1, 1996, such transportation projects shall be approved only as a consideration to attract new employment opportunities to the state or expand or retain employment in

existing companies operating within the state, or to allow for the construction or expansion of a state or federal correctional facility in a county with a population of 75,000 50,000 or less that creates new employment opportunities or expands or retains employment in the county. The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development shall institute procedures to ensure that small and minority businesses have equal access to funding provided under this section. Funding for approved transportation projects may include any expenses, other than administrative costs and equipment purchases specified in the contract, necessary for new, or improvement to existing, transportation facilities.

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

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

- (1) The department in consultation with the water management districts shall, by December 1, 1994, adopt rules to guide the participation of counties, municipalities, and local pollution control programs in an efficient, streamlined permitting system. Such rules shall seek to increase governmental efficiency, shall maintain environmental standards, and shall include consideration of the following:
- (g) Special provisions under which the environmental resource permit program may be delegated to counties with populations of 75,000 or less, or municipalities with, or local pollution control programs serving, populations of 50,000 or less; and

Section 15. Subsection (5) of section 403.4131, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

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

Section 16. Paragraph (d) of subsection (4) of section 403.706, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

403.706 Local government solid waste responsibilities.--

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- (d) A county with a population of 75,000 50,000 or less may provide its residents with the opportunity to recycle in lieu of achieving the goal set forth in paragraph (a). For the purposes of this subsection, the "opportunity to recycle" means that the county:
- 1.a. Provides a system for separating and collecting recyclable materials prior to disposal that is located at a

solid waste management facility or solid waste disposal area;

- b. Provides a system of places within the county for collection of source-separated recyclable materials.
- 2. Provides a public education and promotion program that is conducted to inform its residents of the opportunity to recycle, encourages source separation of recyclable materials, and promotes the benefits of reducing, reusing, recycling, and composting materials.

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

Section 17. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section 403.7061, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 403.7061 Requirements for review of new waste-to-energy facility capacity by the Department of Environmental Protection.--
- (3) An applicant must provide reasonable assurance that the construction of a new waste-to-energy facility or the expansion of an existing waste-to-energy facility will comply with the following subsections:
- (c) The county in which the facility is located will achieve the 30-percent waste reduction goal set forth in s. 403.706(4) by the time the facility begins operation. For the

purposes of this section, the provisions of s. 403.706(4)(d) for counties with populations of 75,000 50,000 or less do not 3 apply. Section 18. Paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of section 4 5 403.7095, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 6 403.7095 Solid waste management grant program. --7 (7)(a) Annual solid waste and recycling grants shall 8 be available to counties with populations of fewer than 75,000 9 50,000. The sum of \$50,000 shall be available annually to 10 each eligible county from the Solid Waste Management Trust Fund through 1996. These grants shall be made by October 1 of 11 12 each year to any county applying to the department prior to 13 August 1 of any given year. Section 19. Paragraph (i) of subsection (1) of section 14 15 403.719, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 403.719 Waste tire grants.--16 17 (1) The department shall administer a program to make 18 grants to counties that seek, individually or collectively, 19 to: (i) Counties with populations less than 75,000 50,000 20 21 may use waste tire grants for any solid waste related purpose; 22 or 23 Section 20. This act shall take effect July 1, 1997. 24 25 26 27 28 29 30