

By the Committee on Transportation & Economic Development  
Appropriations and Representative Merchant

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to economic development grants;  
3           amending s. 14.2015, F.S.; establishing an  
4           economic development grant program under the  
5           Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic  
6           Development; providing criteria, requirements,  
7           and restrictions with respect thereto; amending  
8           ss. 288.108 and 288.90152, F.S.; correcting  
9           cross references; providing an effective date.

10

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

12

13           Section 1. Subsection (9) is added to section 14.2015,  
14 Florida Statutes, to read:15           14.2015 Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic  
16 Development; creation; powers and duties.--

17           (9)(a) Subject to the cooperative recommendations of  
18 Enterprise Florida, Inc., and the Florida Commission on  
19 Tourism and to the approval of the Governor, the Office of  
20 Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development is authorized to  
21 expend appropriated state and federal funds for general  
22 economic development grants. The office shall establish  
23 criteria for the award of grants, including criteria relating  
24 to highest economic return for the state as a whole, or a  
25 particular region, county, city, or community, ability to  
26 properly administer grant funds, and such other matters deemed  
27 necessary and appropriate to further the purposes of this  
28 subsection. The office shall expend all funds in accordance  
29 with state law and shall use such appropriations to supplement  
30 the financial support of:

31

1           1. Programs that have a substantial economic  
2 significance, giving emphasis to programs that benefit the  
3 state as a whole.

4           2. Programs with a high potential for match funding  
5 from nonstate sources.

6           3. Economic development programs for which no other  
7 state grants are available.

8           4. Rural areas and distressed urban areas.

9           (b) Grants shall be made by contract with any  
10 nonprofit corporation or local or state governmental entity.  
11 Of the total amount of funds available from all sources for  
12 grants, 70 percent of such funds shall be awarded on a  
13 50-percent matching basis. Up to 30 percent of such funds  
14 available may be awarded on a nonmatching basis.

15           (c) In administering grants, contracts, and funds  
16 appropriated for economic development programs, the office may  
17 release moneys in advance on a quarterly basis. By the end of  
18 the contract period, the grantee or contractee shall furnish  
19 to the office a complete and accurate accounting of how all  
20 grant funds were expended. Postaudits to be conducted by an  
21 independent certified public accountant may be required in  
22 accordance with criteria adopted by the office.

23           (d) The office shall not award any new grant which  
24 will, in whole or in part, inure to the personal benefit of  
25 any board member of Enterprise Florida, Inc., or the Florida  
26 Commission on Tourism during that member's term of office, if  
27 the board member participated in the vote of the board or  
28 panel thereof recommending the award. However, this subsection  
29 does not prohibit the office from awarding a grant to an  
30 entity with which a board member is associated.

31

