

By the Committee on Transportation and Representatives  
 Spratt, K. Smith, Boyd, Patterson, Lawson, Bronson, Crady,  
 Wiles, J. Miller, Peaden, Stansel, Melvin, Minton, Harrington,  
 Kilmer and Chestnut

1   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to small county road  
 3           assistance; creating s. 339.2816, F.S.;  
 4           creating the Small County Road Assistance  
 5           Program within the Department of  
 6           Transportation; providing a definition;  
 7           providing for county eligibility; providing for  
 8           project prioritization criteria; authorizing  
 9           the Department of Transportation to administer  
 10          program contracts on behalf of counties;  
 11          requiring that program projects be included in  
 12          the Department of Transportation's work  
 13          program; amending s. 339.08, F.S.; authorizing  
 14          the expenditure of State Transportation Trust  
 15          Fund moneys for the Small County Road  
 16          Assistance Program; providing an effective  
 17          date.

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

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 21           Section 1. Section 339.2816, Florida Statutes, is  
 22           created to read:

23                   339.2816 Small County Road Assistance Program;  
 24                   definitions; program funding; funding eligibility; project  
 25                   contract administration.--

26                   (1) There is created within the Department of  
 27                   Transportation the Small County Road Assistance Program. The  
 28                   purpose of this program is to assist small county governments  
 29                   in resurfacing or reconstructing county roads.

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1       (3) For the purposes of this section the term "small  
2 county" means any county which has a population of 75,000 or  
3 less according to 1990 federal census data.

4       (4) Beginning with fiscal year 1999-2000 until fiscal  
5 year 2009-2010 up to \$25 million annually from the State  
6 Transportation Trust Fund may be used for the purposes of  
7 funding the Small County Road Assistance Program as described  
8 in this section.

9       (5)(a) Small counties shall be eligible to compete for  
10 funds which have been designated for the Small County Road  
11 Assistance Program for resurfacing or reconstruction projects  
12 on county roads that were part of the county road system on  
13 June 10, 1995. Capacity improvements on county roads shall not  
14 be eligible for funding under the program.

15       (b) In determining a county's eligibility for  
16 assistance under this program, the department may consider  
17 whether the county has attempted to keep county roads in  
18 satisfactory condition, including the amount of local option  
19 fuel tax and ad valorem millage rate imposed by the county.  
20 The department may also consider the extent to which the  
21 county has offered to provide a match of local funds with  
22 state funds provided under the program. At a minimum, small  
23 counties shall be eligible only if:

24       1. The county has enacted the maximum rate of the  
25 local option fuel tax authorized by s. 336.025(1)(a), and has  
26 imposed an ad valorem millage rate of at least 8 mills, or

27       2. The county has imposed an ad valorem millage rate  
28 of 10 mills.

29       (c) The following criteria shall be used to prioritize  
30 road projects for funding under the program:

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1           1. The primary criteria is the physical condition of  
2 the road as measured by the department.

3           2. As secondary criteria the department may consider:

4           a. Whether a road is used as evacuation route.

5           b. Whether a road has high levels of agricultural  
6 travel.

7           c. Whether a road is considered a major arterial  
8 route.

9           d. Whether a road is considered a feeder road.

10           e. Other criteria related to the impact of a project  
11 to the public road system or to the state or local economy as  
12 determined by the department.

13           (6) The department is authorized to administer  
14 contracts on behalf of a county selected to receive funding  
15 for a project under this section. All projects funded under  
16 this section shall be included in the department's work  
17 program developed pursuant to s. 339.135.

18           Section 2. Paragraph (i) of subsection (2) of section  
19 339.08, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph (j) and  
20 a new paragraph (i) is added to said subsection to read:

21           339.08 Use of moneys in State Transportation Trust  
22 Fund.--

23           (i) To pay the cost of county road projects selected  
24 in accordance with the Small County Road Assistance Program  
25 created by s. 339.2816.

26           Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999.