

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based only on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

BILL: SB 1188

SPONSOR: Senator Mitchell

SUBJECT: Counties

DATE: March 26, 1999

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Cooper</u>	<u>Yeatman</u>	<u>CA</u>	<u>Fav/1 amendment</u>
2.	<u>Fournier</u>	<u>Wood</u>	<u>FR</u>	<u>Favorable</u>
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill authorizes the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) to establish a grant program to assist certain rural counties in financing studies to determine whether to establish multiple service taxing or benefit units.

This bill substantially creates a new, unspecified section of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Section 125.01(1)(q), F.S., authorizes counties to create Municipal Service Taxing Units (MSTU) or Municipal Service Benefit Units (MSBU) to finance a variety of services for a specified area within the county. MSTUs are financed by ad valorem taxes, while MSBUs are financed by service charges or special assessments. MSTUs and MSBUs are not constitutionally nor functionally special districts. These entities exist as a mechanism by which a county can fund particular services within a particular geographic area.

Section 186.901, F.S., requires the Executive Office of the Governor, either through its own resources or by contract, to produce population estimates of local governmental units as of April 1 of each year, using accepted statistical practices. These estimates are compiled by The Bureau of Business and Economic Research, Warrington College of Business Administration of the University of Florida.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 requires the DCA, subject to legislative appropriation, to establish a grant program to assist rural counties in financing feasibility studies to determine whether to create an MSTU or MSBU to finance specific services. Counties would apply to DCA for a grant financing 75% of the feasibility study, with the applying county financing the remaining 25%. Completed studies

financed by this grant must be submitted to DCA within 30 days after it is completed. DCA must establish application forms, procedures, and requirements by rule.

A rural county is defined as a county with a population of 75,000 or fewer persons, pursuant to s. 186.901, F.S.

Section 2 provides that the act will take effect upon becoming a law.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

#1 by Comprehensive Planning, Local and Military Affairs Committee:

This amendment amends s. 27.34(2), F.S., to remove a requirement that office space for state attorneys not be less than was provided during the prior fiscal year except for those counties constructing courthouses and court complexes after July 1, 1999.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.
