

By the Committee on Transportation and Senators Mitchell, Kirkpatrick, Thomas, Geller, Childers, Clary and Bronson

306-1917-99

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; defining the term "small
7 county"; providing for county eligibility;
8 providing criteria for prioritizing projects;
9 authorizing the Department of Transportation to
10 administer program contracts on behalf of
11 counties; requiring that program projects be
12 included in the department's work program;
13 amending s. 339.08, F.S.; authorizing the
14 expenditure of State Transportation Trust Fund
15 moneys for the Small County Road Assistance
16 Program; providing an effective date.

17
18 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

19
20 Section 1. Section 339.2816, Florida Statutes, is
21 created to read:

22 339.2816 Small County Road Assistance Program;
23 definitions; program funding; funding eligibility; project
24 contract administration.--

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 2. The county has imposed an ad valorem millage rate
25 of 10 mills.

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

28 1. The primary criterion is the physical condition of
29 the road as measured by the department.

30 2. As secondary criteria the department may consider:

31 a. Whether a road is used as an evacuation route.

1 b. Whether a road has high levels of agricultural
2 travel.

3 c. Whether a road is considered a major arterial
4 route.

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

6 e. Other criteria related to the impact of a project
7 on the public road system or on the state or local economy as
8 determined by the department.

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

14 Section 2. Present paragraph (i) of subsection (2) of
15 section 339.08, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph
16 (j) and a new paragraph (i) is added to that subsection to
17 read:

18 339.08 Use of moneys in State Transportation Trust
19 Fund.--

20 (2) These rules must restrict the use of such moneys
21 to the following purposes:

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

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

26
27
28
29
30
31

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31

STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SB 1354

This CS creates the Small County Road Assistance Program within the Department of Transportation (DOT) to assist small counties (1990 population of 75,000 or less) in resurfacing or reconstructing roads originally classified as state roads which have been reclassified as county roads.

The CS provides that from fiscal year 1999-2000 until fiscal year 2009-2010, up to \$25 million from the State Transportation Trust Fund may be used for funding the Small County Road Assistance Program. The CS provides criteria for eligibility and prioritization of projects.