

Bill No. CS for CS for SB 1566

Amendment No. \_\_\_\_

	<u>Senate</u>	CHAMBER ACTION	<u>House</u>
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11 Senator McKay moved the following amendment:

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**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

On page 163, between lines 24 and 25,

and insert:

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Section 62. Section 230.23027, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

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230.23027 Small School District Stabilization Program.--

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(1) There is created the Small School District Stabilization Program to assist school districts in rural communities that document economic conditions or other significant community influences that negatively impact the school district. The purpose of the program is to provide technical assistance and financial support to maintain the stability of the educational program in the school district. A rural community means a county with a population of 75,000 or less; or a county with a population of 100,000 or less that is contiguous to a county with a population of 75,000 or less.

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(2) In order to participate in this program, a school

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1 district must be located in a rural area of critical economic  
2 concern designated by the Executive Office of the Governor,  
3 and the school board must submit a resolution to the Office of  
4 Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development requesting  
5 participation in the program. A rural area of critical  
6 economic concern must be a rural community, or a region  
7 composed of such, that has been adversely affected by an  
8 extraordinary economic event or a natural disaster or that  
9 presents a unique economic development concern or opportunity  
10 of regional impact. The resolution must be accompanied with  
11 documentation of the economic conditions in the community,  
12 provide information indicating the negative impact of these  
13 conditions on the school district's financial stability, and  
14 the school district must participate in a best financial  
15 management practices review to determine potential  
16 efficiencies that could be implemented to reduce program costs  
17 in the district.

18 (3) The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic  
19 Development, in consultation with the Department of Education,  
20 shall review the resolution and other information required by  
21 subsection (2) and determine whether the school district is  
22 eligible to participate in the program. Factors influencing  
23 the office's determination may include, but are not limited  
24 to, reductions in the county tax roll resulting from business  
25 closures or other causes, or a reduction in student enrollment  
26 due to business closures or impacts in the local economy.

27 (4) Effective July 1, 2000, and thereafter, when the  
28 Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development authorizes  
29 a school district to participate in the program, the  
30 Legislature may give priority to that district for a best  
31 financial management practices review in the school district,

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1 as authorized in s. 11.515, to the extent that funding is  
2 provided annually for such purpose in the General  
3 Appropriations Act. The scope of the review shall be as set  
4 forth in s. 11.515.

5 (5) Effective July 1, 2000, and thereafter, the  
6 Department of Education may award the school district a  
7 stabilization grant intended to protect the district from  
8 continued financial reductions. The amount of the grant will  
9 be determined by the Department of Education and may be  
10 equivalent to the amount of the decline in revenues projected  
11 for the next fiscal year. In addition, the Office of Tourism,  
12 Trade, and Economic Development may implement a rural economic  
13 development initiative to identify the economic factors that  
14 are negatively impacting the community and may consult with  
15 Enterprise Florida, Inc., in developing a plan to assist the  
16 county with its economic transition. The grant will be  
17 available to the school district for a period of up to 5 years  
18 to the extent that funding is provided for such purpose in the  
19 General Appropriations Act.

20 (6) Based on the availability of funds the Office of  
21 Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development or the Department of  
22 Education may enter into contracts or issue grants necessary  
23 to implement the program.

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25 (Redesignate subsequent sections.)  
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28 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

29 And the title is amended as follows:

30 On page 10, line 15, after the semicolon  
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1 insert:

2 creating s. 230.23027, F.S.; establishing the  
3 Small School District Stabilization Program;  
4 providing for a best financial management  
5 practices review of certain small districts;

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