

581-142AXB-38

Bill No. HB 1853

Amendment No. ____ (for drafter's use only)

| | <u>Senate</u> | CHAMBER ACTION | <u>House</u> |
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Representative(s) Harrington offered the following:

Amendment (with title amendment)

On page 8, between lines 18 and 19, of the bill

insert:

Section 5. Section 230.23027, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

230.23027 Small School District Stabilization Program.--

(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.

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

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,

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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26 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

27 And the title is amended as follows:

28 On page 1, line 26,

29
30 after the second semicolon insert:

31 creating s. 230.23027, F.S.; establishing the

581-142AXB-38

Bill No. HB 1853

Amendment No. ____ (for drafter's use only)

1 Small School District Stabilization Program;
2 providing for a best financial management
3 practices review of certain small districts;
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