

By the Committee on Fiscal Policy

301-338A-99

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to grant proposals for  
3           agricultural facilities; authorizing the  
4           Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
5           to administer a grant program for funding the  
6           acquisition or renovation of fair facilities,  
7           agricultural centers, or livestock pavilions;  
8           authorizing counties, municipalities, and  
9           certain nonprofit corporations to apply for  
10          such grants; requiring that the recipient  
11          provide certain matching funds; providing for a  
12          review panel to review grant applications;  
13          providing for membership of the review panel  
14          and terms of office; requiring the review panel  
15          to annually recommend grant recipients to the  
16          Commissioner of Agriculture; providing that the  
17          department may not allocate a project grant  
18          unless the project is approved by the  
19          Legislature; authorizing the Department of  
20          Agriculture and Consumer Services to adopt  
21          rules; providing an effective date.

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

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25           Section 1. Fair facilities, agricultural centers, and  
26 livestock pavilions; grants for acquisition, renovation, or  
27 construction; funding; approval; allocation.--

28           (1) The Department of Agriculture and Consumer  
29 Services may accept and administer moneys appropriated to it  
30 for providing grants to counties, municipalities, and  
31 qualifying nonprofit corporations for the acquisition,

1 renovation, or construction of fair facilities, agricultural  
2 centers and expositions, or livestock pavilions.

3 (2) A county, municipality, or qualified corporation  
4 may apply for a grant of state funds for the acquisition,  
5 renovation, or construction of a fair facility, agricultural  
6 center or exposition, or livestock pavilion. As used in this  
7 section, the term "qualified corporation" means a corporation  
8 that is designated as a not-for-profit corporation pursuant to  
9 s. 501(c)(3) or (4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954; is  
10 described in, and allowed to receive contributions pursuant  
11 to, s. 170 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954; and is a  
12 corporation not for profit incorporated under chapter 617,  
13 Florida Statutes. The state grant must be matched by a  
14 contribution from the county, municipality, or nonprofit  
15 corporation in the amount required by rule of the department  
16 or as otherwise specified by law.

17 (3)(a) A review panel shall review each application  
18 for a grant to acquire, renovate, or construct a fair  
19 facility, agricultural center or exposition, or livestock  
20 pavilion which is submitted under subsection (2). The  
21 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the  
22 House of Representatives shall each appoint two members to  
23 serve on the review panel, and those six members shall jointly  
24 appoint a seventh member to the panel. Members of the panel  
25 shall be appointed to 3-year terms and may not be reappointed  
26 to the panel within 1 year after completing a 3-year term. In  
27 order to provide for staggered terms, the Governor, the  
28 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
29 Representatives shall each initially appoint one member to a  
30 1-year term. A vacancy on the panel shall be filled for the  
31 unexpired portion of the term in the same manner as the

1 original appointment. The review panel shall elect a  
2 chairperson from among its members to serve a 1-year term and  
3 the chairperson may be reelected.

4 (b) The review panel shall annually submit to the  
5 Commissioner of Agriculture for approval a list of all  
6 applications that the panel recommends be included by the  
7 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in its  
8 legislative budget request for an award of grants, arranged in  
9 order of priority. The department may allocate grants only for  
10 projects for which the Legislature has appropriated funds. Any  
11 project that is approved and recommended by the Commissioner  
12 of Agriculture but which is not funded by the Legislature  
13 shall be retained on the project list for the subsequent grant  
14 cycle. Thereafter, the grant applicant must submit the  
15 information required by the department in compliance with the  
16 established deadline date of the latest grant cycle in order  
17 to adequately indicate the current status of the project.

18 (4) The Department of Agriculture and Consumer  
19 Services shall adopt by rule criteria to be applied by the  
20 review panel in recommending applications for the award of  
21 grants and shall adopt rules for administering this section.

22 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
23 law.

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26 SENATE SUMMARY

27 Provides for the Department of Agriculture and Consumer  
28 Services to administer a grant program to fund the  
29 acquisition, renovation, and construction of fair  
30 facilities, agricultural centers, and livestock  
31 pavilions. Provides for grants to be awarded to counties,  
municipalities, and nonprofit corporations. Establishes a  
panel to review grant proposals and make recommendations  
to the Commissioner of Agriculture for awarding grants.  
Provides rulemaking authority to the Department of  
Agriculture and Consumer Services.