

By the Committee on Fiscal Policy

301-339A-99

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to grant proposals for county
 3 courthouse facilities; authorizing the State
 4 Courts Administrator to administer a grant
 5 program for funding the acquisition,
 6 renovation, or construction of county
 7 courthouse facilities; authorizing counties,
 8 municipalities, and certain nonprofit
 9 corporations to apply for such grants;
 10 requiring that the recipient provide certain
 11 matching funds; providing for a review panel to
 12 review grant applications; providing for
 13 membership of the review panel and terms of
 14 office; requiring the review panel to annually
 15 recommend grant recipients to the State Courts
 16 Administrator; providing that the State Courts
 17 Administrator may not allocate a project grant
 18 unless the project is approved by the
 19 Legislature; authorizing the State Courts
 20 Administrator to adopt rules; providing an
 21 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. County courthouse facilities; grants for
 26 acquisition, renovation, or construction; funding; approval;
 27 allocation.--

28 (1) The State Courts Administrator may accept and
 29 administer moneys appropriated to it for providing grants to
 30 counties, municipalities, and qualifying nonprofit
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1 corporations for the acquisition, renovation, or construction
2 of county courthouse facilities.

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 county courthouse facility.

6 As used in this section, the term "qualified corporation"
7 means a corporation that is designated as a not-for-profit
8 corporation pursuant to s. 501(c)(3) or (4) of the Internal
9 Revenue Code of 1954; is described in, and allowed to receive
10 contributions pursuant to, s. 170 of the Internal Revenue Code
11 of 1954; and is a corporation not for profit incorporated
12 under chapter 617, Florida Statutes. The state grant must be
13 matched by a contribution from the county, municipality, or
14 nonprofit corporation in the amount required by rule of the
15 State Courts Administrator or as otherwise specified by law.

16 (3)(a) A review panel shall review each application
17 for a grant to acquire, renovate, or construct a county
18 courthouse facility which is submitted under subsection (2).
19 The President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
20 Representatives, and the Florida Association of Counties shall
21 each appoint two members to serve on the review panel and the
22 Supreme Court shall appoint one member. Members of the panel
23 shall be appointed to 3-year terms and may not be reappointed
24 to the panel within 1 year after completing a 3-year term. In
25 order to provide for staggered terms, the President of the
26 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the
27 Florida Association of Counties shall each initially appoint
28 one member to a 1-year term. A vacancy on the panel shall be
29 filled for the unexpired portion of the term in the same
30 manner as the original appointment. The review panel shall

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1 elect a chairperson from among its members to serve a 1-year
2 term and the chairperson may be reelected.

3 (b) The review panel shall annually submit to the
4 State Courts Administrator for approval a list of all
5 applications that the panel recommends be included by the
6 Supreme Court in its legislative budget request for an award
7 of grants, arranged in order of priority. In making its
8 recommendation, the review panel shall give preference to
9 small counties that have a population of fewer than 75,000
10 persons. The State Courts Administrator may allocate grants
11 only for projects for which the Legislature has appropriated
12 funds. Any project that is approved and recommended by the
13 State Courts Administrator but which is not funded by the
14 Legislature shall be retained on the project list for the
15 subsequent grant cycle. Thereafter, the grant applicant must
16 submit the required information in compliance with the
17 established deadline date of the latest grant cycle in order
18 to adequately indicate the current status of the project.

19 (4) The State Courts Administrator shall adopt by rule
20 criteria to be applied by the review panel in recommending
21 applications for the award of grants and shall adopt rules for
22 administering this section.

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

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27 SENATE SUMMARY

28 Provides for the State Courts Administrator to administer
29 a grant program to fund the acquisition, renovation, and
30 construction of county courthouse facilities. Provides
31 for grants to be awarded to counties, municipalities, and
nonprofit corporations. Establishes a panel to review
grant proposals and make recommendations to the State
Courts Administrator for awarding grants. Provides
rulemaking authority to the State Courts Administrator.