

By Senator Kurth

15-527-99

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to grant proposals for
3 community centers; authorizing the Department
4 of Community Affairs to administer a grant
5 program for funding the acquisition,
6 renovation, or construction of community
7 centers; authorizing counties, municipalities,
8 and certain nonprofit corporations to apply for
9 such grants; requiring that a grant recipient
10 provide certain matching funds; providing for
11 preference to be given to certain projects;
12 providing requirements for grant recipients;
13 providing for a review panel to review grant
14 applications; providing for membership of the
15 review panel and terms of office; requiring the
16 review panel to annually recommend grant
17 recipients to the Secretary of Community
18 Affairs; providing that the department may not
19 allocate a project grant unless the funds are
20 appropriated by the Legislature; authorizing
21 the Department of Community Affairs to adopt
22 rules; providing an effective date.

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

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26 Section 1. Grants for acquisition, renovation, or
27 construction of community centers; funding; approval;
28 allocation.--

29 (1) The Department of Community Affairs may accept and
30 administer moneys appropriated to it for providing grants to
31 counties, municipalities, and qualifying nonprofit

1 corporations for the acquisition, renovation, or construction
2 of community centers.

3 (2)(a) A county, municipality, or qualified
4 corporation may apply for a grant of state funds to acquire,
5 renovate, or construct a community center. As used in this
6 section, the term "qualified corporation" means a corporation
7 that is designated as a not-for-profit corporation pursuant to
8 s. 501(c)(3) or (4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954; is
9 described in, and allowed to receive contributions pursuant
10 to, s. 170 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954; and is a
11 corporation not for profit incorporated under chapter 617,
12 Florida Statutes.

13 (b) The state grant may be used to cover up to 75
14 percent of the project cost, and the county, municipality, or
15 nonprofit corporation must demonstrate to the department that
16 funds are available and committed to the project. The maximum
17 amount that may be awarded to a single project under this
18 section is 1.5 million.

19 (c) The county, municipality, or nonprofit corporation
20 must demonstrate to the department that the community supports
21 the project and has dedicated funds to operate and maintain
22 the community center.

23 (d) The department shall give preference to projects
24 that are located in:

25 1. Enterprise zones, empowerment zones, and services
26 areas in which at least 75 percent of the residents are of low
27 or moderate income, as defined by the United States Department
28 of Housing and Urban Development; or

29 2. Communities that have fewer than one community
30 center per 35,000 residents.

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1 (e) Grant funds awarded under this section may not be
2 used for administrative purposes.

3 (f) Each applicant that receives a grant must
4 continually monitor its performance under the grant-supported
5 activities to ensure that time schedules are met, project
6 objectives are accomplished within specified time periods, and
7 other performance goals are achieved.

8 (3)(a) A review panel shall review each application
9 for a grant to acquire, renovate, or construct a community
10 center which is submitted under subsection (2). The Governor,
11 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
12 Representatives shall each appoint two members to serve on the
13 review panel, and those six members shall jointly appoint a
14 seventh member to the panel. Members of the panel shall be
15 appointed to 3-year terms and may not be reappointed to the
16 panel within 1 year after completing a 3-year term. In order
17 to provide for staggered terms, the Governor, the President of
18 the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives
19 shall each initially appoint one member to a 1-year term. A
20 vacancy on the panel shall be filled for the unexpired portion
21 of the term in the same manner as the original appointment.
22 The review panel shall elect a chairperson from among its
23 members to serve a 1-year term and the chairperson may be
24 reelected.

25 (b) The review panel shall annually submit to the
26 Secretary of Community Affairs for approval a list of all
27 applications that the panel recommends be included by the
28 Department of Community Affairs in its legislative budget
29 request for an award of grants, arranged in order of priority.
30 The department may allocate grants only for projects for which
31 the Legislature has appropriated funds. Any project that is

1 approved and recommended by the Secretary of Community Affairs
2 but which is not funded by the Legislature shall be retained
3 on the project list for the subsequent grant cycle.

4 Thereafter, the grant applicant must submit the information
5 required by the department in compliance with the established
6 deadline date of the latest grant cycle in order to adequately
7 indicate the current status of the project.

8 (4) The Department of Community Affairs shall adopt by
9 rule criteria to be applied by the review panel in
10 recommending applications for the award of grants and shall
11 adopt rules for administering this section.

12 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
13 law.

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16 SENATE SUMMARY

17 Provides for the Department of Community Affairs to
18 administer a grant program to fund the acquisition,
19 renovation, and construction of community centers.
20 Provides for grants to be awarded to counties,
21 municipalities, and nonprofit corporations. Establishes a
22 panel to review grant proposals and make recommendations
23 to the Secretary of Community Affairs for awarding
24 grants. Provides rulemaking authority to the Department
25 of Community Affairs. (See bill for details.)
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