

By Representative K. Smith

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to counties; authorizing the  
3           Department of Community Affairs to establish a  
4           grant program to assist rural counties in  
5           financing studies regarding the establishment  
6           of multiple service taxing or benefit units;  
7           providing for rules; providing an effective  
8           date.  
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10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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12           Section 1. Establishment of multiple service taxing or  
13 benefit units; grants to rural counties.--

14           (1) As used in this section, "rural county" means a  
15 county with a population of 75,000 or fewer persons,  
16 determined pursuant to s. 186.901, Florida Statutes.

17           (2) Subject to legislative appropriation, the  
18 Department of Community Affairs shall establish a grant  
19 program to assist any rural county in making a determination  
20 whether to establish a multiple service taxing or benefit unit  
21 as authorized by s. 125.01, Florida Statutes. Under this  
22 program, any rural county that is considering the  
23 establishment of a multiple service taxing or benefit unit and  
24 that wishes to conduct a study to determine the necessity for  
25 and advisability of establishing such a unit may apply to the  
26 department for a grant to assist in financing the study. If  
27 the application is approved by the department, the department  
28 may award a grant to the county in an amount equal to 75  
29 percent of the cost of the study, if the county agrees to  
30 finance 25 percent of the cost of the study itself. A copy of  
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1 the study shall be submitted to the department within 30 days  
2 after it is completed.

3 (3) The department shall establish an application form  
4 and application procedures and requirements by rule pursuant  
5 to chapter 120, Florida Statutes.

6 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
7 law.

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HOUSE SUMMARY

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12 Authorizes the Department of Community Affairs to  
13 establish a grant program to assist rural counties having  
14 a population of 75,000 or less in financing a study to  
15 determine whether to establish a multiple service taxing  
16 or benefit unit. A grant would be awarded to finance 75  
17 percent of the cost of such a study, if the county agrees  
18 to pay for 25 percent of such cost.

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