

By Senator Kirkpatrick

5-412-99

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to court funding; creating s.
3 25.403, F.S.; providing for compensation to
4 counties for certain costs through a trust fund
5 administered by the Supreme Court; requiring
6 adoption by the Supreme Court of an allocation
7 and disbursement plan; providing for
8 appointment of a committee to develop the plan;
9 providing a limitation on the amount of moneys
10 disbursed from the fund; providing that the
11 funds paid to counties shall be grants-in-aid
12 for specified purposes; providing for future
13 repeal; providing an effective date.

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

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17 Section 1. Section 25.403, Florida Statutes, is
18 created to read:

19 25.403 Small County Courthouse Facilities Trust
20 Fund.--

21 (1)(a) The trust fund moneys in the Small Counties
22 Courthouse Facilities Trust Fund, administered by the Supreme
23 Court, must be used to compensate counties for the costs they
24 incur for consulting or architectural studies related to the
25 improvement of courthouse facilities, improving court
26 facilities to assure compliance with the American with
27 Disabilities Act and other federal and state requirements, and
28 other renovations in court facilities, including improvements
29 in court security.

30 (b) The Supreme Court shall adopt an allocation and
31 disbursement plan for the operation of the trust fund and the

1 expenditure of moneys deposited in the trust fund. The Supreme
2 Court shall include the plan in its legislative budget
3 request. The plan shall include evaluation criteria used to
4 measure each county request. A committee of nine people shall
5 develop and recommend the allocation and disbursement plan to
6 the Supreme Court. The committee shall be composed of:

7 1. Three persons appointed by the Florida Association
8 of Counties who must reside in counties with populations of
9 less than 75,000;

10 2. Three persons appointed by the Chief Justice of the
11 Supreme Court who must reside in counties with populations of
12 less than 75,000; and

13 3. Three persons appointed by the Florida Association
14 of Court Clerks and Comptrollers who must reside in counties
15 with populations of less than 75,000.

16 (c) Amendments to the approved operating budget for
17 expenditures from the Small Counties Courthouse Facilities
18 Trust Fund must be approved in accordance with the provisions
19 of s. 216.181. The total amount disbursed from the Small
20 Counties Courthouse Facilities Trust Fund may not exceed the
21 amount authorized by the General Appropriations Act. Funds
22 paid to counties shall be grants-in-aid.

23 (2) This section expires June 30, 2004.

24 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999.

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SENATE SUMMARY

Provides for compensation to counties from moneys in the Small County Courthouse Facilities Trust Fund for the costs they incur for consulting or architectural studies related to the improvement of courthouse facilities. The fund is to be administered by the Supreme Court. Requires the Court to adopt an allocation and disbursement plan. Provides for the appointment of a committee to develop the plan. Provides that the funds paid to the counties are grants-in-aid for specified purposes. Provides that the total amount disbursed from the fund may not exceed the amount authorized by the General Appropriations Act. Provides for future repeal.