

By Representative Crady

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to grant proposals for county  
3           courthouse facilities; authorizing the Supreme  
4           Court, through the Department of Management  
5           Services, to administer a grant program to  
6           provide small counties with funding for the  
7           acquisition, renovation, or construction of  
8           county courthouse facilities; authorizing small  
9           counties to apply for such grants; requiring  
10          that the recipient provide certain matching  
11          funds; providing for a grant review panel and  
12          its membership and terms of office; requiring  
13          the review panel to annually recommend grant  
14          recipients to the Department of Management  
15          Services; providing that the Department of  
16          Management Services may not allocate a project  
17          grant unless the project is approved by the  
18          Legislature; authorizing the Department of  
19          Management Services to establish the process  
20          and the procedure for submission and review of  
21          applications; providing criteria for review of  
22          grant applications; providing an effective  
23          date.

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

26  
27           Section 1. Small county courthouse facilities; grants  
28 for acquisition, renovation, or construction; funding;  
29 approval; allocation.--

30           (a) "Small county" means a county that has a  
31 population of fewer than 75,000.

1           (b) "Department" means the Department of Management  
2 Services.

3           (2) The Small County Courthouse Facilities Grant  
4 Review Panel is created in the Department of Management  
5 Services for the purpose of receiving and reviewing grant  
6 applications that seek funds to acquire, renovate, or  
7 construct small county courthouse facilities and making  
8 recommendations regarding those applications to the  
9 department.

10           (3)(a) The panel shall consist of five members, and  
11 the following persons and organizations shall each make one  
12 appointment to the panel: the President of the Senate, the  
13 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chief Justice of  
14 the Supreme Court, the Florida Association of Court Clerks and  
15 Comptrollers, and the Florida Association of Counties. The  
16 members appointed by the associations must reside in small  
17 counties.

18           (b) All initial members of the panel must be appointed  
19 by July 15, 2000, and shall initially be appointed as follows:  
20 the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
21 Representatives, and the Florida Association of Court Clerks  
22 and Comptrollers shall each appoint one member to serve a  
23 1-year term; and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and  
24 the Florida Association of Counties shall each appoint one  
25 member to serve a 2-year term. Subsequent appointments to the  
26 panel shall be for 3-year terms. Panel members may not be  
27 reappointed to the panel within 1 year after serving a 3-year  
28 term.

29           (c) A vacancy on the panel shall be filled for the  
30 unexpired portion of the term in the same manner as the  
31 original appointment. The panel shall elect a chairperson from

1 among its members to serve a 1-year term. The chairperson may  
2 be subsequently reelected.

3 (4) The panel shall review each grant application  
4 seeking funds to acquire, renovate, or construct small county  
5 courthouse facilities. The panel shall then make  
6 recommendations to the secretary of the department regarding  
7 the applications. The panel and the department shall use the  
8 following criteria when reviewing, evaluating, recommending,  
9 and approving grant applications:

10 (a) Whether the chief judge of the circuit of the  
11 county submitting the grant application expressly recommends  
12 that a need exists for courthouse facility acquisition,  
13 renovation, or construction;

14 (b) Whether the county submitting the application has  
15 matching funds, either in-kind or cash, available for the  
16 project;

17 (c) Whether the application requests funds to address:  
18 physical access to the courts and compliance with the  
19 Americans with Disabilities Act; fire safety; air quality;  
20 structural integrity; physical security of courthouse  
21 facilities; compliance with court orders mandating renovation,  
22 expansion, and construction of courthouse facilities to  
23 provide safer workplaces for court-related business;  
24 appropriate space to conduct court proceedings; or compliance  
25 with other state and federal construction requirements;

26 (d) Whether the county submitting the grant  
27 application has a minimum millage rate of 9 mills; and

28 (e) Other criteria that the department determines  
29 would facilitate the equitable distribution of grant funds  
30 based on need.

31

1 When reviewing and approving grant applications, the panel and  
2 the department shall assume that the funding available for  
3 distribution is the same level of recurring funding  
4 appropriated in the previous fiscal year.

5 (5) The Department of Management Services is  
6 responsible for submitting its recommendations, in priority  
7 order, to the Office of the State Courts Administrator by  
8 August 15 of each year for inclusion in the State Court  
9 System's legislative budget request for the subsequent fiscal  
10 year. The Office of State Courts Administrator shall include  
11 the department's recommendations in the legislative budget  
12 request without modification.

13 (6) Any grant application that is approved and  
14 recommended for funding by the department but is not  
15 subsequently funded by the Legislature must be updated and  
16 resubmitted by the grant applicant for consideration in  
17 subsequent years.

18 (7) The department shall specify the process and  
19 procedures for submitting and reviewing grant applications.  
20 Notice to submit applications for grants of state funds shall  
21 be published in the Florida Administrative Weekly.

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

24  
25 \*\*\*\*\*

26 SENATE SUMMARY

27 Provides for a grant program to provide small counties  
28 with funding for the acquisition, renovation, or  
29 construction of courthouse facilities. Provides  
30 procedures and criteria for the award of such grants.  
31