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DATE: March 22, 2001

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON
LOCAL GOVERNMENT & VETERANS AFFAIRS
ANALYSIS**

BILL #: HB 1189

RELATING TO: Brownfield Redevelopment Incentives

SPONSOR(S): Representative Diaz-Balart

TIED BILL(S): None

ORIGINATING COMMITTEE(S)/COUNCIL(S)/COMMITTEE(S) OF REFERENCE:

- (1) LOCAL GOVERNMENT & VETERANS AFFAIRS (SGC)
- (2) NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (RIC)
- (3) FISCAL POLICY & RESOURCES (FRC)
- (4) COUNCIL FOR SMARTER GOVERNMENT
- (5)

I. SUMMARY:

This bill creates a sales tax rebate program for qualifying counties that construct, renovate, or expand a significant new facility on a qualifying brownfield site. To be eligible for the program, the site must be within the boundaries of local government that has a resident population of 300,000 or more and has been declared in a state of financial emergency during any of the seven fiscal years preceding the date on which construction of a significant new facility commences. Currently, only the City of Miami meets this criteria. A qualifying significant new facility must be owned by a county and leased to, licensed to, or be operated by a private, for-profit entity for the purpose of operating a business for a period of not less than 30 years. The facility must have an actual cost of construction, reconstruction, renovation, expansion, or rehabilitation of the facility and remediation of the qualifying site of not less than \$300 million, of which not less than \$50 million, over the term of the lease, license, or operation, will be contributed by the private lessee, licensee, or operator. In addition, to qualify, it must be proposed, in a report submitted to the eligible county by a qualified economist, that the facility will have an annual economic impact of not less than \$100 million over the term of the lease, license, or operation and will create not less than 1,500 jobs over such term.

The bill provides for the governing body of an eligible county to notify the Department of Revenue (DOR) of its eligibility in order to receive the sales tax rebate, and provides requirements for such notice. DOR is required to certify an eligible county within 90 days of receipt of such notice from an eligible county.

The bill authorizes an eligible county to use its sales rebate funds for the public purpose of paying for, or pledging as security for, or paying debt service on bonds or other obligations issued to finance the cost of an eligible project. The amount of the sales tax rebate to be provided to an eligible county is to be computed annually, and must equal 100 percent of the sales taxes generated by the development, construction, lease, use, or operation of the significant new facility, and all or any part of the qualifying site. The bill declares that the state does hereby covenant with the holders of bonds or other obligations or contractual commitments secured by or payable from the proceeds of the sales tax rebate authorized by this subsection that it will not repeal or impair, or amend in any manner which will materially and adversely affect the rights of such holders, the sales tax rebate provided by this bill.

This bill's fiscal impact on state and local governments, as well as the private sector, is unknown. Miami-Dade County is the only county that currently qualifies for the program.

II. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS:

A. DOES THE BILL SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>Less Government</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. <u>Lower Taxes</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. <u>Individual Freedom</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. <u>Personal Responsibility</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. <u>Family Empowerment</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

For any principle that received a “no” above, please explain:

B. PRESENT SITUATION:

Brownfields

In 1997, the Legislature passed the Brownfields Redevelopment Act (Act) to provide incentives for the private sector to redevelop abandoned, idled, or under-used industrial and commercial properties where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. (See ss. 376.77-376.85, F.S.) Key objectives of the brownfields initiatives are community economic enhancement through increased capital investment, an increased tax base and tax revenue, job creation, better utilization of community resources, improving the quality of life, and improving the environment. Brownfield sites are “sites that are generally abandoned, idled, or under-used industrial and commercial properties where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by actual or perceived environmental contamination.” The Act provided the framework for Florida’s Brownfields Program to facilitate redevelopment of these sites while also providing for environmental cleanup and protection of the public health and the environment.

Local governments or persons responsible for rehabilitation and redevelopment of brownfield areas must establish an advisory committee, or use an existing advisory committee, to improve public participation and receive public comments on rehabilitation and redevelopment of the brownfield area. Local governments are also encouraged to use the full range of economic and tax incentives available to facilitate and promote the rehabilitation of brownfield areas (s. 376.80, F.S.).

Section 376.82, F.S., provides that any person who has not caused or contributed to the contamination of a brownfield site after July 1, 1997, is eligible to participate in the brownfield rehabilitation program. Certain specified sties are not eligible. Immunity and liability protection for further future remediation is provided under certain circumstances, and additional liability protection for lenders is provided. This provision does not impair third party rights for damages.

Section 376.84, F.S., provides allowable financial incentives and local incentives for redevelopment for designated brownfield areas. These include, but are not be limited to:

- Tax increment financing through community redevelopment agencies pursuant to part III of chapter 163, F.S.
- Enterprise zone tax exemptions for businesses pursuant to chapters 196 and 290, F.S.
- Safe neighborhood improvement districts as provided in ss. 163.501-163.523, F.S.

- Waiver, reduction, or limitation by line of business with respect to occupational license taxes pursuant to chapter 205, F.S.
- Tax exemption for historic properties as provided in s. 196.1997, F.S.
- Residential electricity exemption of up to the first 500 kilowatts of use may be exempted from the municipal public service tax pursuant to s. 166.231, F.S.
- Minority business enterprise programs as provided in s. 287.0943, F.S.
- Electric and gas tax exemption as provided in s. 166.231(6), F.S.
- Economic development tax abatement as provided in s. 196.1995, F.S.
- Grants, including community development block grants.
- Pledging of revenues to secure bonds.
- Low-interest revolving loans and zero-interest loan pools.
- Local grant programs for facade, storefront, signage, and other business improvements.
- Governmental coordination of loan programs with lenders, such as microloans, business reserve fund loans, letter of credit enhancements, gap financing, land lease and sublease loans, and private equity.
- Payment schedules over time for payment of fees, within criteria, and marginal cost pricing.

Regulatory incentives may include, but not be limited to:

- Cities' absorption of developers' concurrency needs.
- Developers' performance of certain analyses.
- Exemptions and lessening of state and local review requirements.
- Water and sewer regulatory incentives.
- Waiver of transportation impact fees and permit fees.
- Zoning incentives to reduce review requirements for redevelopment changes in use and occupancy; establishment of code criteria for specific uses; and institution of credits for previous use within the area.
- Flexibility in parking standards and buffer zone standards.
- Environmental management through specific code criteria and conditions allowed by current law.
- Maintenance standards and activities by ordinance and otherwise, and increased security and crime prevention measures available through special assessments.

- Traffic-calming measures.
- Historic preservation ordinances, loan programs, and review and permitting procedures.
- One-stop permitting and streamlined development and permitting process.
- Technical assistance incentives may include, but not be limited to:
- Expedited development applications.
- Formal and informal information on business incentives and financial programs.
- Site design assistance.
- Marketing and promotion of projects or areas.

Section 376.86, F.S., provides for a Brownfield Areas Loan Guarantee Council to review, approve, or deny certain partnership agreements with local governments, financial institutions, and others associated with the redevelopment of brownfields for limited guarantees of loans or loss reserves. The council may enter into an investment agreement with DEP and the State Board of Administration concerning the investment of the earnings accrued and collected upon the investment of the balance of funds maintained in the Nonmandatory Land Reclamation Trust Fund. Not more than \$5 million of the investment earnings earned on the investment of the minimum balance of the Nonmandatory Land Reclamation Trust Fund may be at risk at any time on loan guarantees or loan loss reserves. Of the \$5 million, 15 percent must be reserved for the investment agreements involving predominantly minority-owned businesses. The investment earnings may not be used to guarantee any loan guaranty or loan loss reserve agreement for a period longer than five years.

Section 376.875, F.S., creates the Brownfield Property Ownership Clearance Assistance Revolving Loan Trust Fund to be administered by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development in the Executive Office of the Governor for the purpose of funding low-interest loans for the purchase of outstanding, unresolved contractor liens, tax certificates, or other liens or claims on brownfield sites designated as part of a brownfield area by a local government.

In 1998, the Brownfields Redevelopment Act was amended to address several glitches that had been identified since the passage of the 1997 act in addition to other changes intended to enhance the usage and success of the program (ch. 98-75, L.O.F.). In order to provide additional economic incentives for brownfields redevelopment, the Legislature created a tax credit against either the intangible personal property tax or corporate income tax for taxpayers that voluntarily participate in the cleanup of a designated brownfield site. A tax credit of 35 percent is allowed for the costs of voluntary cleanup activity that is integral to site rehabilitation, with a maximum of \$250,000 per site per year. The total amount of the tax credits is \$2 million annually. Chapter 62-788, F.A.C., the Voluntary Cleanup Tax Credit Rule was adopted with an effective date of March 31, 1999.

The Voluntary Cleanup Tax Credit program has issued a total of \$148,666.38 in tax credits since inception of the program in 1998. Six applications were received by DEP in December 2000 for processing. The six applications claimed a total of \$224,351.70 in tax credits. The applications will undergo a review with a final tax credit determination made by March 1, 2001. This year, the first brownfields tax credit application was received for processing. Previously, all applications received and processed were for tax credits for site cleanups at drycleaning-solvent-contaminated sites. The real property owners undertook the cleanup.

In the interim preceding the 2000 legislative session, a series of workshops were organized by a state senator to determine what legislative measures would be needed to continue or improve brownfield rehabilitation efforts. As a result, the 2000 Florida Legislature amended the Act to create additional regulatory and financial incentives and provided a mechanism for a comprehensive marketing plan for redevelopment of designated brownfield areas.

Financial and economic incentives administered by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development (OTTED) include the Brownfield Redevelopment Bonus Refund (a tax refund, job creation incentive); a revolving loan fund that provides assistance in the funding of low-interest loans; and a limited state loan guaranty. In an effort to further job creation, a change to the Brownfield Redevelopment Bonus Refund incentive was passed. This change expanded the definition of "eligible business" as defined in section 288.107(1), F.S., to include "...other business that can demonstrate a fixed capital investment of at least \$2 million in mixed-use business activities...and which pays wages that are at least 80 percent of the average of all private sector wages in the county in which the business is located." This change increases the types of business that are eligible for a "bonus refund"; therefore, it provides greater potential for job creation in designated brownfield areas. The creation of 1,298 direct jobs and 1,546 indirect jobs can be attributed to the Brownfield Redevelopment Bonus Refund. Additionally, the inducement of \$41,014,000 in new capital investments is attributable to the Brownfield Redevelopment Bonus Refund. The jobs and capital investments referred to above are provided by four businesses within designated brownfield areas.

The number of designated brownfield areas increased from a total of twenty-five in 1999 to thirty-nine in 2000. These designated areas encompass over 66,100 acres of contaminated and uncontaminated properties including residential and viable business properties. The largest of the new designated areas for Year 2000 includes 18 square miles within the City of Jacksonville.

Federal Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative

Brownfields Assessment and Demonstration Pilots

Over the last four years, seventeen communities within Florida have received EPA designations as national or regional Brownfields Assessment and Demonstration Pilots (Pilots). The Pilots, each funded at up to \$200,000 over two years, test redevelopment models, direct special efforts toward removing regulatory barriers without sacrificing protection, and facilitate and coordinate site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment efforts at the federal, state, and local levels. The City of Opa-Locka is the latest to receive a pilot grant.

Brownfields Showcase Communities

In 1998, sixteen communities around the nation were selected as Brownfields Showcase Communities. In EPA Region 4, the Eastward Ho! Brownfields Partnership, which encompasses the eastern portions of Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade Counties, was selected to receive this designation. EPA, to continue the project in 2000, awarded supplemental funding.

Targeted Brownfields Site Assessment Projects

Through a Cooperative Agreement with the EPA, the DEP has been conducting Targeted Brownfields Site Assessments (TBSA) for local governments at properties with known or suspected

contamination. The TBSA funding of up to \$50,000 is allocated to each selected local government. The purpose of the TBSA is to assist state and local governments and tribes, especially those without EPA Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots, in reducing the uncertainties associated with contamination at brownfields.

This year the Cities of Tampa and Opa-Locka and the North Florida Education Development Corporation in Quincy were selected for Phase I and II TBSAs. The Cities of Fort Myers, North Miami Beach, Ocala and Sarasota received TBSAs commitments in 1999.

Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilots

The Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilots also provide federal funding for brownfield projects within communities. The job training and development pilots provide up to \$200,000 over two years. Two cities in Florida received this designation in 1998. The EPA selected Career Options of Pinellas, Inc. for a Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilot in the amount of \$141,364. The EPA also selected Miami-Dade Community College for a Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilot in the amount of \$200,000. Miami-Dade Community College will concentrate its workforce development efforts in the City of Miami and Dade County, both of which are Brownfields Assessment and Demonstration Pilots. The job training and development pilot will target Miami's distressed Wynwood and Model City neighborhoods.

Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) Grant

Two communities in Florida, Miami-Dade County and the City of St. Petersburg, are using the Department of Housing and Urban Development's BEDI to redevelop and leverage private sector investment in community revitalization projects. These grants are intended to leverage millions in economic development loan guarantees and in private and public investment to return brownfields back to productive use. Community Development Block Grant entitlement communities and non-entitlement communities are eligible to receive loan guarantees.

Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Demonstration Pilots

The EPA provides financial assistance to an eligible entity (e.g., a municipality) to establish its own revolving loan fund that will be used to make loans for authorized purposes (i.e., brownfields cleanups). A revolving loan fund charges interest on the loans, generally at a low interest rate, and uses the loan repayments to make new loans for authorized purposes.

Hillsborough County was the latest to receive a revolving loan fund. The loan was awarded in May 2000. The City of St. Petersburg was the first to receive funding from EPA for a revolving loan fund in 1997. Three additional Florida pilots -- the City of Jacksonville, and Escambia and Miami-Dade Counties -- were awarded funding in Fiscal Year 1999.

Sales Tax Reimbursement Programs

Section 212.20, F.S., describes how tax revenues collected pursuant to Chapter 212, F.S., are to be distributed. Pursuant to s. 212.20(6)(e), F.S., the Department of Revenue (DOR) distributes tax revenues to professional sports franchise facilities that are certified by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development (OTTED) as meeting requirements set forth in s. 288.1162, F.S., to the Professional Golf Hall of Fame facility as certified pursuant to s. 288.1168, F.S., and to the International Game Fish Association World Center facility as certified pursuant to s. 288.1169, F.S. Each recipient receives a fixed monthly distribution that is set by statute. No other sports-related businesses or facilities are entitled to distributions from DOR of tax revenues collected pursuant to Chapter 212, F.S.

organization to assist OTTED in two primary areas, one of which is in the promotion and development of the sports industry and related industries for the purpose of improving the economic presence of these industries in Florida. As part of this assistance, OTTED uses the direct support organization, the Florida Sports Foundation, to carry out the applicant screening duties required under ss. 288.1162, 288.1168, and 288.1169, F.S. The Florida Sports Foundation submits the applications to OTTED which certifies the eligibility of the applicants under the law.

C. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

This bill creates a sales tax rebate program for qualifying counties that construct, renovate, or expand a significant new facility on a qualifying brownfield site. To be eligible for the program, the site must be within the boundaries of local government that has a resident population of 300,000 or more and has been declared in a state of financial emergency during any of the seven fiscal years preceding the date on which construction of a significant new facility commences. A qualifying significant new facility must be owned by a county and leased to, licensed to, or be operated by a private, for-profit entity for the purpose of operating a business for a period of not less than 30 years. The facility must have an actual cost of construction, reconstruction, renovation, expansion, or rehabilitation of the facility and remediation of the qualifying site of not less than \$300 million, of which not less than \$50 million, over the term of the lease, license, or operation, will be contributed by the private lessee, licensee, or operator. In addition, to qualify, it must be proposed, in a report submitted to the eligible county by a qualified economist, that the facility will have an annual economic impact of not less than \$100 million over the term of the lease, license, or operation and will create not less than 1,500 jobs over such term.

The bill provides for the governing body of an eligible county to notify the Department of Revenue (DOR) of its eligibility in order to receive the sales tax rebate, and provides requirements for such notice. DOR is required to certify an eligible county within 90 days of receipt of such notice from an eligible county.

The bill authorizes an eligible county to use its sales rebate funds for the public purpose of paying for, or pledging as security for, or paying debt service on bonds or other obligations issued to finance the cost of an eligible project. The amount of the sales tax rebate to be provided to an eligible county is to be computed annually, and must equal 100 percent of the sales taxes generated by the development, construction, lease, use, or operation of the significant new facility, and all or any part of the qualifying site.

Finally, the bill declares that the state does hereby covenant with the holders of bonds or other obligations or contractual commitments secured by or payable from the proceeds of the sales tax rebate authorized by this subsection that it will not repeal or impair, or amend in any manner which will materially and adversely affect the rights of such holders, the sales tax rebate provided by this bill.

D. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS:

Section 1. Section 376.84, F.S., is amended to revise legislative intent relating to Brownfield redevelopment economic incentives, to state legislative recognition that in communities impacted by local government financial emergencies, local government resources are strained and incentives to encourage the development, use, redevelopment, or reuse by local government of brownfield areas are particularly needed.

Subsection (1) is amended to add to the allowable financial incentive for redevelopment, sales tax rebates established for an eligible county owning a significant new facility on a qualifying site.

A new subsection (4) is added to provide that the governing board of an eligible county which constructs, reconstructs, renovates, expands, or rehabilitates, either directly or through turnkey or similar contractual arrangements, a significant new facility on a qualifying site shall be entitled to receive sales tax rebates pursuant to s. 212.20, F.S., in the manner provided in the subsection. The subsection provides the following definitions:

- "Eligible county" means a county which constructs, reconstructs, renovates, expands, or rehabilitates, either directly or through turnkey or similar contractual arrangements, a significant new facility on a qualifying site.
- "Qualifying site" means a site located in a brownfield area designated under s. 376.80, F.S., that is owned by an eligible county and is within the boundaries of a local government impacted by a financial emergency.
- "Local government impacted by a financial emergency" means a county or municipality that has a resident population of 300,000 or more and has been declared in a state of financial emergency pursuant to part V of chapter 218, F.S., during any of the 7 fiscal years preceding the date on which construction of a significant new facility commences.
- "Significant new facility" means a real property improvement on a qualifying site that meets the following requirements:
 - It is owned by a county and leased to, licensed to, or to be operated by a private, for-profit entity for the purpose of operating a business therefrom for a period of not less than 30 years after the date the eligible county submits the notice required by paragraph (c).
 - It has an actual cost for construction, reconstruction, renovation, expansion, or rehabilitation of the facility and remediation of the qualifying site of not less than \$300 million, of which not less than \$50 million, over the term of the lease, license, or operation, will be contributed by the private lessee, licensee, or operator, which contribution may be in the form of annual payments pledged to finance the construction of the facility.
 - It has been proposed, in a report submitted to the eligible county by a qualified economist, that the facility will have an annual economic impact of not less than \$100 million over the term of the lease, license, or operation and will create not less than 1,500 jobs over such term.
 - "Cost," with respect to the qualifying site and significant new facility, shall have the same meaning as provided by s. 190.003(7).
- "Department" means the Department of Revenue.

The subsection provides for the governing authority of an eligible county to notify the department in writing of its eligibility to receive the sales tax rebate, along with:

- Evidence that the significant new facility is located on a qualifying site.
- Copies, certified by the clerk of the eligible county as true and correct copies, of fully executed construction contracts or other contractual arrangements evidencing that the actual cost of the construction, reconstruction, renovation, expansion, or rehabilitation of the significant new facility and the remediation of the qualifying site on which it is located exceeds \$300 million, of which not less than \$50 million will be contributed by the private lessee, licensee, or operator in the manner described in subparagraph (b)4.

- The fully executed agreement evidencing that the facility has been leased to, licensed to, or is to be operated by a private, for-profit entity for a period of not less than 30 years after the date of the notice.

The subsection requires the department shall certify an eligible county within 90 days after its receipt of the notice. The subsection grants the department the authority to adopt rules to implement the provisions of this subsection.

The subsection authorizes an eligible county to use funds only for the public purpose of paying for, or pledging as security for or paying debt service on bonds or other obligations issued to finance, the costs of acquisition, site preparation, infrastructure development, construction, reconstruction, renovation, expansion, or rehabilitation of the qualifying site and significant new facility to be located thereon, or for the costs of infrastructure and other improvements outside the boundaries of the qualifying site but which are necessary or helpful to the development or operation of the significant new facility, or for reimbursement of any such costs, and for the costs incurred by it to remediate the qualifying site.

The subsection provides that the amount of the sales tax rebate pursuant to s. 212.20(6)(e)7.e. to be provided to an eligible county certified pursuant to this section to be computed annually and to be equal to 100 percent of the taxes imposed under chapter 212 generated each year from the development, construction, lease, use, or operation of the significant new facility and all or any part of the qualifying site.

Finally, the subsection declares that the state does hereby covenant with the holders of bonds or other obligations or contractual commitments secured by or payable from the proceeds of the sales tax rebate authorized by this subsection that it will not repeal or impair, or amend in any manner which will materially and adversely affect the rights of such holders, the sales tax rebate provided by this subsection and s. 212.20, F.S.

Section 2. Paragraph (e) of subsection (6) of s. 212.20, F.S., is amended to add a new sub-subparagraph (6)(e)7 to require beginning 30 days after an eligible county has been certified pursuant to s. 376.84(4), a monthly sales tax reimbursement payment calculated pursuant to s. 376.84(4), F.S., to the eligible county.

Section 3. This section provides that if section 35 of chapter 2000-260, L.O.F., is not repealed by section 58 of said chapter, then effective October 1, 2001, paragraph (e) of subsection (6) of s. 212.20, F.S., as amended by section 35 of chapter 2000-260, L.O.F., is amended to add a new sub-subparagraph (6)(e)7 to require beginning 30 days after an eligible county has been certified pursuant to s. 376.84(4), a monthly sales tax reimbursement payment calculated pursuant to s. 376.84(4), F.S., to the eligible county.

Section 4. This section provides that except as otherwise provided, this act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

III. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT:

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

Indeterminate. (See "Fiscal Comments.")

2. Expenditures:

Indeterminate. (See "Fiscal Comments.")

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

Indeterminate. (See "Fiscal Comments.")

2. Expenditures:

Indeterminate. (See "Fiscal Comments.")

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

Indeterminate. (See "Fiscal Comments.")

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

This bill's fiscal impact on state and local governments, as well as the private sector, is unknown. Miami-Dade County is the only county that currently qualifies for the program. As discussed in the "Effects of Proposed Changes" section, the amount of the sales tax rebate to be provided to an eligible county is to be computed annually, and must equal 100 percent of the sales taxes generated by the development, construction, lease, use, or operation of the significant new facility, and all or any part of the qualifying site. The bill places no limitation on this amount.

Any county and facility qualifying and participating in the program, would receive 100 percent of the sales taxes generated by the facility and the qualifying site. As a result, all new state sales tax revenues generated by the site, would be returned to the eligible county.

Private entities could benefit directly and indirectly from the proposed sales tax rebate program. As noted in the "Effects of Proposed Changes" section, a qualifying significant new facility must be owned by a county and leased to, licensed to, or be operated by a private, for-profit entity for the purpose of operating a business for a period of not less than 30 years. While the bill requires the for-profit entity to contribute not less than \$50 million, over the term of the lease, license, or operation, to the cost of the project, presumably the private entity will benefit from the financing provided by the proposed sales tax rebate. In addition, businesses in the surrounding area could benefit from the economic activity generated by the development.

IV. CONSEQUENCES OF ARTICLE VII, SECTION 18 OF THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION:

A. APPLICABILITY OF THE MANDATES PROVISION:

This bill does not require counties or municipalities to spend funds or to take an action requiring the expenditure of funds.

B. REDUCTION OF REVENUE RAISING AUTHORITY:

This bill will not reduce the authority of countries and municipalities to raise total aggregate revenues.

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C. REDUCTION OF STATE TAX SHARED WITH COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES:

This bill does not reduce the total aggregate percent of state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

V. COMMENTS:

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

N/A

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

The Department of Revenue is authorized to adopt rules to implement the provisions of this bill.

C. OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

VI. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

None.

VII. SIGNATURES:

COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT & VETERANS AFFAIRS:

Prepared by:

Staff Director:

Thomas L. Hamby, Jr.

Joan Highsmith-Smith