

# SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

BILL: SB 726

SPONSOR: Senator Fasano

SUBJECT: Libraries

DATE: April 3, 2003

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Cooper</u>	<u>Yeatman</u>	<u>CP</u>	<u>Favorable</u>
2.	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>ATD</u>	<u>                    </u>
3.	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>AP</u>	<u>                    </u>
4.	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
5.	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
6.	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>

## I. Summary:

This bill establishes the Community Libraries In Caring Grant Program to assist libraries in specified rural communities, and appropriates \$100,000 from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of State to fund the program.

This bill creates s. 257.193 of the Florida Statutes.

## II. Present Situation:

### State Aid to Libraries Program

The Department of State, Division of Library and Information Services (division), administers the State Aid to Libraries program. This incentive program is designed to encourage counties to provide library service to their residents and to provide funding to support that library service. Grant formulas are based largely on local funds invested in library service. The more local money spent on library services, the higher the grants earned under the State Aid to Libraries Program.

Any county that qualifies for the State Aid to Libraries program can receive an *Operating Grant*. Such grants may be no more than 25 percent of local funds expended to operate and maintain a public library. The Legislature annually appropriates funds for grants, which are prorated among eligible recipients. All 67 counties now meet the statutory requirements to receive grants under the State Aid to Libraries program.

The program also provides *Equalization Grants* to those counties that qualify for an operating grant and that have limited local tax resources.

*Multi-County Library Grants* are available to provide additional support to those counties that qualify for Operating Grants and choose to join together to provide library service to their residents.

*Establishment Grants of up to \$50,000* are awarded for the first year to any county, counties and municipalities entering into an interlocal agreement (chapter 163, F.S.), or a special district or tax district, any of which qualifies for an operating grant. This establishment grant is equal to and in addition to the total operating and equalization grants for which a county qualifies.

*Public Library Construction Grants* are available to eligible governmental agencies for the construction of new buildings, site acquisition and the acquisition, expansion or remodeling of existing buildings to be used for public library services. Funds are awarded on a 50:50 matching basis, and the maximum grant award allowable is \$500,000. Applications are due May 1 each year.

*Florida Library Literacy Grants* provide state funding to support the development and implementation of adult literacy programs statewide through public libraries. The Legislature determines the amount appropriated annually for the program. Eligible public libraries may apply for an annual grant of up to \$25,000.

Currently, there are no specific grants for rural library programs.

### **Community Libraries In Caring**

Community Libraries In Caring (CLIC) is an organization whose goal is to strengthen the collections and services of rural libraries in Florida that have low per-capita appropriations for their libraries.

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

**Section 1** creates s. 257.193, F.S., to establish the Community Libraries In Caring Grant Program to assist libraries in rural communities, as defined in Section 288.0656(2)(b), F.S., to strengthen collections and services, improve literacy, improve economic viability of the community. Section 288.0656(2)(b), F.S., defines a rural community as

- A county with a population of 75,000 or less;
- A county with a population of 100,000 or less that is contiguous to a county with a population of 75,000 or less;
- A municipality within a county described above; or
- An unincorporated federal enterprise community or an incorporated rural city with a population of 25,000 or less and an employment base focused on traditional agricultural or resource-based industries, located in a county not defined as rural, which has at least three or more of the economic distress factors identified in paragraph (a) and verified by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development.

A qualified library may apply for a grant of up to \$10,000. Applicants must show local or other support that includes cash, in-kind contributions, or other forms of assistance.

The Division of Library and Information Services of the Department of State is responsible to administer the grants, develop rules that establish the application procedures and criteria for the review of the grant applications and grant awards, and facilitate the exchange of ideas and services to foster the purposes of the grant.

**Section 2** provides for an appropriation of \$100,000 from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of State to fund and administer the program.

**Section 3** provides that the bill will take effect October 1, 2003.

**IV. Constitutional Issues:**

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

**V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:**

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Amendments:**

None.

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This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.

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