

# 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: CS/SB 1396

SPONSOR: Governmental Oversight & Productivity Committee and Senator Smith

SUBJECT: Public Libraries

DATE: March 25, 2004      REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

|    | ANALYST     | STAFF DIRECTOR | REFERENCE  | ACTION        |
|----|-------------|----------------|------------|---------------|
| 1. | <u>Rhea</u> | <u>Wilson</u>  | <u>GO</u>  | <u>Fav/CS</u> |
| 2. | _____       | _____          | <u>CP</u>  | _____         |
| 3. | _____       | _____          | <u>ATD</u> | _____         |
| 4. | _____       | _____          | <u>AP</u>  | _____         |
| 5. | _____       | _____          | _____      | _____         |
| 6. | _____       | _____          | _____      | _____         |

**I. Summary:**

The committee substitute authorizes the Division of Library and Information Services to accept and administer moneys appropriated to it for small county public library grants. The purpose is to assist counties and municipalities that have been designated rural communities in accordance with ss. 288.0656(2)(b) and 288.06561, F.S., to construct, expand or renovate public library facilities to meet the federal requirement of 0.6 square feet per capita of total library floor space. The bill specifies eligibility criteria for competitive grant funding for the public library construction grants. The bill prohibits a library from receiving funds from both public library construction grant programs under s. 257.191, F.S., in the same fiscal year. Rules for the administration of the small county public library grant program are to be developed by the Division of Library and Information Services of the Department of State.

The bill takes effect upon becoming a law.

This bill amends section 257.191 of the Florida Statutes.

**II. Present Situation:**

Section 257.191, F.S., authorizes the Division of Library and Information Services to administer library construction money that is appropriated to it. Under the Public Library Construction Grant Program, assistance is provided for the construction of new buildings, site acquisition, and the acquisition, expansion, or remodeling of existing buildings that are used as municipal, county, and regional public libraries. Any of the 67 county general governments, incorporated municipalities, special districts, and special tax districts that establish or maintain a public library and provide free public library service can apply for a grant. The grants are required by law to have a local match of no less than the grant amount, on a dollar for dollar basis, up to the

maximum grant amount of \$500,000, unless waived pursuant to the procedures contained in s. 288.06561, F.S. The maximum state grant is set by rule at \$500,000 in non-recurring funds and the minimum is set at \$10,000.<sup>1</sup> The minimum project size is 3,000 square feet.

In FY 2003-04, seven grants were awarded to projects serving seven counties: Duval, Gadsden, Hillsborough, Palm Beach, Pinellas, Sarasota, and Wakulla.

Section 288.06561, F.S., provides for a reduction or waiver of financial match requirements for rural areas meeting the requirements under the Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) in s. 288.0656, F.S.

Based upon the REDI county library facility needs chart, many counties have insufficient revenue capacity at the local level to generate the money to construct or expand library facilities to meet federal square footage per capita standards. These counties are in need of more than the \$500,000 cap to begin to meet construction needs.

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

The committee substitute authorizes the Division of Library and Information Services to accept and administer moneys appropriated to it for small county public library grants. The purpose is to assist counties and municipalities that have been designated rural communities in accordance with ss. 288.0656(2)(b) and 288.06561, F.S., to construct, expand or renovate public library facilities to meet the federal requirement of 0.6 square feet per capita of total library floor space. The bill specifies eligibility criteria for competitive grant funding for the public library construction grants. The bill prohibits a library from receiving funds from both public library construction grant programs under s. 257.191, F.S., in the same fiscal year. Rules for the administration of the small county public library grant program are to be developed by the Division of Library and Information Services of the Department of State. Finally, the grant program does not take effect until a specific appropriation is made to the department for the funding of these grants.

The bill is effective upon becoming law.

### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

#### **A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

The bill does not require expenditure of funds by local governments, does not reduce authority to raise revenue, or reduce the percentage of state tax shared with local governments.

#### **B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

None.

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<sup>1</sup> Rule 1B2-2.011(2)(b), F.A.C.

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:

The bill does not appear to have an impact on General Revenue as funding for the grant program is dependent upon legislative appropriation.

**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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