

HB 0259

2004

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to public libraries; amending s. 257.191, F.S.; revising provisions relating to public library construction grants; providing for waiver of local matching requirement under certain circumstances; authorizing the Division of Library and Information Services to administer certain funds; providing for eligibility for grant funding; providing for the adoption of rules; providing for effect contingent upon certain appropriations; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 257.191, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

257.191 Public library construction grants.--

(1) The Division of Library and Information Services may accept and administer library construction moneys appropriated to it and shall allocate such appropriation to municipal, county, and regional libraries in the form of public library construction grants on a matching basis. The local matching portion shall be no less than the grant amount, on a dollar-for-dollar basis, up to the maximum grant amount, unless the matching requirement is waived by s. 288.06561. The division shall waive the matching requirement if a county or municipality requests a waiver of the matching requirement and has been designated a rural community in accordance with ss. 288.0656(2)(b) and 288.06561. Initiation of a library construction project 12 months or less prior to the grant award under this section shall not affect the eligibility of an

HB 0259

2004

31 applicant to receive a public library construction grant.

32 (2)(a) The Division of Library and Information Services  
 33 may accept and administer moneys appropriated to it for small  
 34 county public library construction grants. The purpose of the  
 35 grants is to assist counties and municipalities that have been  
 36 designated rural communities in accordance with ss.

37 288.0656(2)(b) and 288.06561 to construct, expand, or renovate  
 38 public library facilities to meet the requirement of 0.6 square  
 39 feet per capita of total library floor space.

40 (b) To be eligible to compete for funds under this  
 41 subsection, a county or municipality shall:

42 1. Comply with the definition of rural community as  
 43 provided in s. 288.0656(2)(b).

44 2. Have less than 0.6 square feet per capita of total  
 45 library floor space.

46 3. Certify that the county or municipality will  
 47 appropriate and expend sufficient funds to operate the completed  
 48 library facility.

49 4. Not apply if a grant has been awarded under the public  
 50 library construction grant program provided in subsection (1)  
 51 for the same fiscal year.

52 (c) The implementation of the provisions of the small  
 53 county public library construction grants under this subsection  
 54 shall be contingent upon specific appropriations provided to the  
 55 Department of State for funding of these grants.

56 (3) A public library shall not receive grant funding from  
 57 the public library construction grant program provided in  
 58 subsection (1) and the small county public library construction  
 59 grant program provided in subsection (2) during the same fiscal  
 60 year.

HB 0259

2004

61        (4) The division shall adopt rules for the administration  
62 of library construction grants. For the purposes of this  
63 section, s. 257.21 does not apply.

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