

By Senator Smith

14-552-05

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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;  
authorizing the Division of Library and  
Information Services to administer certain  
funds for a small-county public library  
construction program; providing eligibility  
requirements for grant funding; providing for  
the adoption of rules; providing for the  
program to take 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.  
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 applicant to receive a public library  
construction grant.

1           (2)(a) The Division of Library and Information  
2 Services may accept and administer moneys appropriated to it  
3 for small-county public library construction grants. The  
4 purpose of the grants is to assist counties and municipalities  
5 that have been designated rural communities in accordance with  
6 ss. 288.0656(2)(b) and 288.06561 to construct, expand, or  
7 renovate public library facilities to meet the requirement of  
8 0.6 square feet per capita of total library floor space.

9           (b) To be eligible to compete for funds under this  
10 subsection, a county or municipality:

11           1. Must comply with the definition of rural community  
12 as provided in s. 288.0656(2)(b).

13           2. Must have less than 0.6 square feet per capita of  
14 total library floor space.

15           3. Must certify that the county or municipality will  
16 appropriate and expend sufficient funds to operate the  
17 completed library facility.

18           4. May not have been awarded a grant under the public  
19 library construction grant program provided in subsection (1)  
20 for the same fiscal year.

21           (c) The implementation of the small-county public  
22 library construction grant program under this subsection is  
23 contingent upon specific appropriations provided to the  
24 Department of State for the funding of these grants.

25           (3) A public library may not receive grant funding  
26 from the public library construction grant program provided in  
27 subsection (1) and the small-county public library  
28 construction grant program provided in subsection (2) during  
29 the same fiscal year.

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

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

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8   SENATE SUMMARY

9           Revises provisions relating to public library  
10 construction grants. Authorizes the Division of Library  
11 and Information Services of the Department of State to  
12 administer funds for small-county public library  
13 construction grants. Provides eligibility requirements  
14 for funding such grants. Provides for the adoption of  
15 rules. Provides that implementing the program is  
16 contingent upon specific appropriations being made by the  
17 Legislature to the department.  
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