

By the Committee on Transportation and Economic Development  
Appropriations; and Senator Diaz de la Portilla

606-1843-06

1                                   A bill to be entitled

2           An act relating to coordinated 311 nonemergency

3           and other governmental services telephone

4           systems; creating s. 365.180, F.S.; defining

5           the term "coordinated 311 nonemergency and

6           other governmental services telephone system";

7           authorizing the Department of Community Affairs

8           to accept and administer funds to provide

9           grants for coordinated 311 nonemergency and

10          other governmental services systems;

11          authorizing counties and municipalities to

12          apply for grants; requiring a county or

13          municipality to provide matching funds;

14          requiring the department to award grants in

15          order of priority; providing for certain

16          limitations on grant funds received;

17          authorizing the department to adopt rules;

18          providing for the award of a grant to be

19          contingent upon appropriation or the

20          availability of funds from private sources;

21          providing an effective date.

22

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

24

25           Section 1. Section 365.180, Florida Statutes, is

26 created to read:

27           365.180 Grant program for a coordinated 311

28 nonemergency and other governmental services telephone system;

29 grants for operation; funding; approval; allocation.--

30           (1) The Legislature finds that a 311 telephone system

31 for nonemergency and other governmental services may reduce

1 the volume of nonemergency calls to 911 Public Safety  
2 Answering Points, particularly in times of a disaster. The  
3 Legislature further finds that 311 systems improve public  
4 access to government by providing seamless access to various  
5 governmental entities, enhancing coordination among state and  
6 various local jurisdictions, and improving service delivery.

7 (2) As used in this section, the term "coordinated 311  
8 nonemergency and other governmental services telephone system"  
9 means a 311 system that is multijurisdictional and designed to  
10 provide seamless access to nonemergency and other governmental  
11 services.

12 (3) The Department of Community Affairs may accept and  
13 administer funds that are appropriated to it to award grants  
14 to counties and municipalities to operate a coordinated 311  
15 nonemergency and other governmental services telephone system.

16 (4) A county or municipality may apply to the  
17 department for a grant of state funds to implement and operate  
18 a coordinated 311 nonemergency and other governmental services  
19 telephone system.

20 (5) A grant awarded under this section must be matched  
21 by a contribution from the county or municipality in an amount  
22 equal to \$1 for each \$1 awarded under this section.

23 (6) The department shall review each grant application  
24 that is submitted under subsection (4) and shall annually  
25 submit to the secretary a list of all applications received.  
26 Included with the list of applicants shall be a list of the  
27 systems that staff of the department recommend for approval,  
28 arranged in order of priority. The department shall allocate  
29 grants only to applicants that are approved by the secretary  
30 and for which funds are appropriated by the Legislature.

31

1       (7) The annual amount of any one grant made under this  
2 section may not exceed the lesser of \$2.5 million or 50  
3 percent of the total annual cost of operating the coordinated  
4 311 nonemergency and other governmental services telephone  
5 system. The total amount of the grants awarded to a  
6 coordinated 311 nonemergency and other governmental services  
7 telephone system in a 5-year period may not exceed \$10  
8 million.

9       (8) Each 311 system receiving state matching funds  
10 shall submit a report to the Governor, the President of the  
11 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by  
12 December 15, 2007, detailing how the funds appropriated for  
13 the 311 system were spent.

14       (9) The Department of Community Affairs may adopt  
15 rules for administering this section, including rules for the  
16 criteria to be applied in order to evaluate applications for  
17 grants. The application evaluation criteria shall, at a  
18 minimum, include the following:

19           (a) The population of the applicant county or  
20 municipality;

21           (b) Prior establishment of a 311 number by the  
22 applicant county or municipality;

23           (c) The interoperability between the proposed 311  
24 system and the existing 911 Public Safety Answering Points  
25 within the applicant county or municipality;

26           (d) The commitment of funds by the applicant county or  
27 municipality beyond the minimum match contribution; and

28           (e) The long-range plan for sustainability of the  
29 proposed 311 system submitted by the applicant county or  
30 municipality.

31

1           Section 2. Grants for the coordinated 311 nonemergency  
2 and other governmental services telephone system grant program  
3 within the Department of Community Affairs may be awarded to  
4 the extent funds are appropriated in law or made available  
5 from private sources.

6           Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.

7  
8                   STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
9                   COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
10                   Senate Bill 1062

11 The committee substitute for Senate Bill 1062 removes the \$10  
12 million general revenue appropriation and authorizes spending  
13 on the Coordinated 311 Nonemergency and Other Governmental  
14 Services Telephone Systems Matching Grant Program contingent  
15 upon an appropriation in law or upon receipt of funds from  
16 private sources. The committee substitute also specifies  
17 certain criteria to be used by the department in the  
18 evaluation of the matching grant applications.  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31