

By Senator Fasano

11-735-07

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to state grants to libraries;
 3 amending s. 257.172, F.S.; revising criteria
 4 governing the eligibility of a multicounty
 5 library for certain state grants; increasing
 6 the amount of grants for certain multicounty
 7 libraries; amending s. 257.18, F.S.; revising
 8 criteria governing the eligibility of a county
 9 for an equalization grant for providing library
 10 services; amending s. 257.22, F.S.; removing
 11 requirement that the Chief Financial Officer
 12 issue warrants to certain political
 13 subdivisions certified by the Division of
 14 Library Services of the Department of State;
 15 providing an effective date.

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

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 19 Section 1. Section 257.172, Florida Statutes, is
 20 amended to read:

21 257.172 Multicounty library grants.--
 22 (1) The administrative unit of a multicounty library
 23 that serves two or more counties that include at least one
 24 county that qualifies for an equalization grant and serves a
 25 population of 50,000 or more, ~~or has three or more counties,~~
 26 is eligible for an annual grant from the state. The grant
 27 funds shall ~~are to~~ be used for the support and extension of
 28 library service in participating counties. The grant must be
 29 computed by the division on a state matching basis up to \$1
 30 million in local expenditures by all participating counties
 31 for operation and maintenance of a library during the second

1 preceding year. The administrative unit of a multicounty
2 library with:

3 (a) Two participating counties is eligible for a grant
4 equal to 5 cents on each local dollar of expenditure.

5 (b) Three participating counties is eligible for a
6 grant equal to 10 cents on each local dollar of expenditure.

7 (c) Four participating counties is eligible for a
8 grant equal to 15 cents on each local dollar of expenditure.

9 (d) Five participating counties is eligible for a
10 grant equal to 20 cents on each local dollar of expenditure.

11 (e) Six or more participating counties is eligible for
12 a grant equal to 25 cents on each local dollar of expenditure.

13 (2) In addition, to support multicounty library
14 service, the administrative unit of a multicounty library
15 with:

16 (a) Two participating counties is eligible to receive
17 a base grant of a minimum of \$50,000.

18 (b) Three or more participating counties is eligible
19 to receive a base grant of a minimum of \$350,000. However,
20 this paragraph applies only to years in which the Legislature
21 appropriates for operating, multicounty, and equalization
22 grants at least 3 percent more than it appropriated for such
23 grants in the 2006-2007 fiscal year.~~\$250,000 to support~~
24 ~~multicounty library service. That amount may be adjusted by~~
25 ~~the division based on the percentage change in the state and~~
26 ~~local government price deflator for purchases of goods and~~
27 ~~services, all items, 1983 equals 100, or successor reports for~~
28 ~~the preceding calendar year as initially reported by the~~
29 ~~Bureau of Economic Analysis of the United States Department of~~
30 ~~Commerce, as certified by the Florida Consensus Estimating~~
31 ~~Conference.~~

1 Section 2. Section 257.18, Florida Statutes, is
2 amended to read:

3 257.18 Equalization grants.--

4 (1) Any county qualifying for an operating grant is
5 eligible to receive an equalization grant if:

6 (a) The county was eligible for an equalization grant
7 in the 2006-2007 fiscal year; when

8 (b) The value of 1 mill adjusted to reflect the
9 average statewide level of assessment is below the median
10 amount for all counties in the state;

11 (c) The county operating millage subject to the
12 10-mill cap is equal to or above the average for all counties
13 or the per capita income for the county is equal to or below
14 the average for all counties; and

15 (d) The amount of any single equalization grant is no
16 larger than 10 percent of the total amount required to fund
17 equalization grants to all eligible counties and the per
18 capita local funds expended for library support during the
19 second preceding year is below the average for all counties.

20 (2) The equalization grant of a county that ceases to
21 meet the criteria in subsection (1) in any single year must be
22 phased out over a 3-year period. In the first year of such
23 period, the county must receive the grant amount for which it
24 qualified the previous year and be notified that the grant
25 will be phased out over the next 2 years. The county must
26 receive two-thirds of such prior grant amount in the second
27 year and one-third of that grant amount in the third year.
28 After receiving such one-third amount in the third year, the
29 county is not eligible to receive an equalization grant.

30 (3) Equalization grants to eligible counties shall be
31 calculated as follows:

1 (a) The equalization factor shall be ~~is~~ computed by
2 subtracting the value of 1 mill adjusted to reflect the
3 average statewide level of assessment for each county from the
4 average adjusted value of 1 mill for all counties and then
5 dividing that amount by the average adjusted value of 1 mill
6 for all counties.

7 (b) ~~The An~~ equalization grant shall be ~~is~~ computed by
8 multiplying the equalization factor times the total local
9 funds expended for library support by that county during the
10 second preceding year and adding that amount to the actual
11 total local funds expended for library support by that county
12 during the second preceding year. The result is the adjusted
13 value for the local funds expended for library service. The
14 amount of the equalization grant is equal to 25 cents of the
15 adjusted value of local funds expended for library service.

16 (c) ~~(2)~~ When the adjusted mill equivalent of actual
17 local funds expended for library support by the county during
18 the second preceding year is above the statewide average
19 adjusted mill equivalent of actual local funds expended by all
20 counties receiving operating grants, the amount of the
21 equalization grant shall ~~is~~ equal ~~to~~ 50 cents of the adjusted
22 value of local funds expended for library service.

23 (d) The amount of any single equalization grant may be
24 no larger than 10 percent of the total amount required to fund
25 equalization grants to all eligible counties.

26 (4) ~~(3)~~ The Division of Library and Information
27 Services shall calculate equalization grants based on the
28 amount of local funds expended for library service the second
29 preceding year as certified by the appropriate county
30 officials and information on the level of assessment of
31 property in each county, ~~and~~ the taxable value of property in

1 each county, the county operating millage subject to the
2 10-mill cap, and the per capita income as reported by the
3 ~~state agency authorized by law, which shall certify the~~
4 ~~results of such determination to the division.~~

5 (5)(4) For the purposes of this section, and to
6 protect those counties most dependent on equalization grants,
7 the moneys available for equalization grants shall remain
8 frozen at the amount for the 2006-2007 fiscal year of
9 \$8,877,057 until 15 percent of the total appropriation for
10 operating, multicounty, and equalization grants equals such
11 amount. Thereafter, an equalization grant for a fiscal year
12 may not exceed 15 percent of the total appropriation for
13 operating, multicounty, and equalization grants in that fiscal
14 year. Section 257.21 applies if the total appropriation in a
15 fiscal year for operating, multicounty, and equalization
16 grants is less than the amount for the 2006-2007 fiscal year
17 of \$31,999,233. ~~s. 257.21 does not apply.~~

18 Section 3. Section 257.22, Florida Statutes, is
19 amended to read:

20 257.22 Division of Library and Information Services;
21 allocation of funds.--Any moneys that may be appropriated for
22 use by a county, a municipality, a special district, or a
23 special tax district for the maintenance of a library or
24 library service shall be administered and allocated by the
25 Division of Library and Information Services in the manner
26 prescribed by law. On or before December 1 of each year, the
27 division shall certify to the Chief Financial Officer the
28 amount to be paid to each county, municipality, special
29 district, or special tax district, ~~and the Chief Financial~~
30 ~~Officer shall issue warrants to the eligible political~~
31 ~~subdivisions.~~

1 Section 4. Except as otherwise expressly provided in
2 this act, this act shall take effect July 1, 2007.

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5 SENATE SUMMARY

6 Revises criteria governing the eligibility of various
7 local libraries for certain state grants. Removes a
8 requirement that the Chief Financial Officer issue
9 warrants to certain political subdivisions certified by
10 the Division of Library Services of the Department of
11 State.

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