

By the Committee on Governmental Operations; and Senator Fasano

585-2416-07

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to state aid to public
3 libraries; amending s. 257.172, F.S.; revising
4 grant eligibility criteria for multicounty
5 libraries; revising determination for and
6 amount of base grants; amending s. 257.18,
7 F.S.; revising eligibility criteria,
8 calculation, and determination for equalization
9 grants; limiting grants and grant amounts under
10 specified conditions; amending s. 257.22, F.S.;
11 removing a requirement for issuance of warrants
12 to political subdivisions eligible for certain
13 funding; amending s. 257.42, F.S.; removing a
14 limit on the amount of a library cooperative
15 grant; 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. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 257.172,
20 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

21 257.172 Multicounty library grants.--

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

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1 library during the second preceding year. The administrative
2 unit of a multicounty 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 \$50,000, effective July 1, 2007.

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

7 (a) The county was eligible for an equalization grant
8 in fiscal year 2006-2007.

9 (b) ~~When~~ The value of 1 mill adjusted to reflect the
10 average statewide level of assessment is below the median
11 amount for all counties in the state ~~and the per capita local~~
12 ~~funds expended for library support during the second preceding~~
13 ~~year is below the average for all counties.~~

14 (c) The county operating millage subject to the
15 10-mill cap is equal to or above the average for all counties.
16 If the county does not meet this millage requirement, the per
17 capita income for the county must be equal to or below the
18 average for all counties.

19 (d) The county has been eligible for an equalization
20 grant each fiscal year since fiscal year 2006-2007.

21 (2) If a county fails to meet the eligibility criteria
22 for an equalization grant in any one year, the county shall be
23 notified that its equalization grant funding will be phased
24 out over a 3-year period as follows:

25 (a) In the first year, the county shall receive the
26 grant amount for which it qualified the previous year.

27 (b) In the second year, the county shall receive
28 two-thirds of the grant amount it received under paragraph
29 (a).

30 (c) In the third year, the county shall receive
31 one-third of the grant amount it received under paragraph (a).

1 (d) In subsequent years, the county shall not be
2 eligible to receive an equalization grant.

3 (3) An equalization grant to an eligible county is
4 calculated in the following manner:

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

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

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

26 (4) A county may not receive an equalization grant
27 that is equal to more than 10 percent of the total amount
28 required to fund equalization grants to all eligible counties.

29 (5)(3) The Division of Library and Information
30 Services shall calculate equalization grants based on the
31 amount of local funds expended for library service the second

1 preceding year as certified by the appropriate county
2 officials and information on the level of assessment of
3 property in each county, ~~and~~ the taxable value of property in
4 each county, the county operating millage subject to the
5 10-mill cap, and the per capita income as reported by the
6 ~~state~~ agency authorized by law, ~~which shall certify the~~
7 ~~results of such determination to the division.~~

8 ~~(6)(4)~~ Equalization grants shall not exceed 15 percent
9 of the amount appropriated for operating, multicounty, and
10 equalization grants, or \$8,877,057, whichever is greater. If
11 the total appropriation for operating, multicounty, and
12 equalization grants is less than \$31,999,233, s. 257.21
13 ~~applies. For the purposes of this section, s. 257.21 does not~~
14 ~~apply.~~

15 Section 3. Section 257.22, Florida Statutes, is
16 amended to read:

17 257.22 Division of Library and Information Services;
18 allocation of funds.--Any moneys that may be appropriated for
19 use by a county, a municipality, a special district, or a
20 special tax district for the maintenance of a library or
21 library service shall be administered and allocated by the
22 Division of Library and Information Services in the manner
23 prescribed by law. On or before December 1 of each year, the
24 division shall certify to the Chief Financial Officer the
25 amount to be paid to each county, municipality, special
26 district, or special tax district, ~~and the Chief Financial~~
27 ~~Officer shall issue warrants to the eligible political~~
28 ~~subdivisions.~~

29 Section 4. Section 257.42, Florida Statutes, is
30 amended to read:

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1 257.42 Library cooperative grants.--The administrative
2 unit of a library cooperative is eligible to receive an annual
3 grant from the state ~~of not more than \$400,000~~ for the purpose
4 of sharing library resources based upon an annual plan of
5 service and expenditure and an annually updated 5-year,
6 long-range plan of cooperative library resource sharing. Those
7 plans, which must include a component describing how the
8 cooperative will share ~~technology~~ and ~~the use of~~ technology,
9 must be submitted to the Division of Library and Information
10 Services of the Department of State for evaluation and
11 possible recommendation for funding in the division's
12 legislative budget request. Grant funds may not be used to
13 supplant local funds or other funds. A library cooperative
14 must provide from local sources matching cash funds equal to
15 10 percent of the grant award.

16 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.

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18 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
19 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
20 Senate Bill 1736

21 Amends s. 257.42, F.S., to remove the \$400,000 cap for the
22 annual grant for an administrative unit of a library
23 cooperative for the purpose of sharing library resources based
24 upon an annual plan of service and expenditure.
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