

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to governmental services telephone
 3 systems; creating s. 365.180, F.S.; providing legislative
 4 findings; defining the term "coordinated 311 nonemergency
 5 and other governmental services telephone system";
 6 authorizing the Department of Community Affairs to accept
 7 and administer funds to provide grants for certain
 8 governmental services telephone systems; authorizing
 9 counties and municipalities to apply for grants; requiring
 10 a county or municipality to provide matching funds;
 11 providing procedures for approval of grant awards;
 12 requiring approval by the Secretary of Community Affairs
 13 or appropriation by the Legislature; providing for certain
 14 limitations on grant funds amounts; requiring a report to
 15 the Governor and the Legislature detailing expenditures;
 16 authorizing the department to adopt rules; providing
 17 application evaluation criteria; providing an
 18 appropriation; providing an effective date.

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

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 22 Section 1. Section 365.180, Florida Statutes, is created
 23 to read:

24 365.180 Coordinated 311 nonemergency and other
 25 governmental services telephone system grant program; grants for
 26 operation; funding; approval; allocation.--

27 (1) The Legislature finds that a 311 telephone system for
 28 nonemergency and other governmental services may reduce the

29 volume of nonemergency calls to 911 public safety answering
30 points, particularly in times of a disaster. The Legislature
31 further finds that 311 systems improve public access to
32 government by providing seamless access to various governmental
33 entities, enhancing coordination among state and various local
34 jurisdictions, and improving service delivery.

35 (2) As used in this section, the term "coordinated 311
36 nonemergency and other governmental services telephone system"
37 means a 311 system that is multijurisdictional in nature such
38 that it is designed to provide seamless access to nonemergency
39 and other governmental services.

40 (3) The Department of Community Affairs may accept and
41 administer funds that are appropriated to it for providing
42 grants to counties and municipalities for operating a
43 coordinated 311 nonemergency and other governmental services
44 telephone system.

45 (4) A county or municipality may apply for a grant of
46 state funds to support the implementation and operation of a
47 coordinated 311 nonemergency and other governmental services
48 telephone system.

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

52 (6) The Department of Community Affairs shall review each
53 application submitted under subsection (4) for a grant to
54 implement a coordinated 311 nonemergency and other governmental
55 services telephone system and, annually, shall submit a list of
56 all applications received and a list of the systems that are

57 recommended for the award of grants, arranged in order of
58 priority, to the Secretary of Community Affairs for the
59 secretary's approval. The Department of Community Affairs may
60 allocate grants only for coordinated 311 nonemergency and other
61 governmental services telephone systems that are approved by the
62 secretary or for which funds are appropriated by the
63 Legislature.

64 (7) The annual amount of any one grant made under this
65 section may not exceed the lesser of \$2.5 million or 50 percent
66 of the total annual cost of operating the coordinated 311
67 nonemergency and other governmental services telephone system.
68 The total amount of the grants awarded to a coordinated 311
69 nonemergency and other governmental services telephone system in
70 a 5-year period may not exceed \$10 million.

71 (8) Each 311 system receiving state matching funds shall
72 submit a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate,
73 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 15,
74 2008, detailing how the funds appropriated for the 311 system
75 were spent.

76 (9) The Department of Community Affairs may adopt rules
77 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 prescribing the criteria
78 to be applied to applications for grants and rules providing for
79 the administration of this section. The application evaluation
80 criteria shall, at a minimum, include the following:

81 (a) The population of the applicant county or
82 municipality.

83 (b) Prior establishment of a 311 number by the applicant
84 county or municipality.

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85 (c) The interoperability between the proposed 311 system
86 and the existing 911 public safety answering points within the
87 applicant county or municipality.

88 (d) The commitment of funds by the applicant county or
89 municipality beyond the minimum match contribution.

90 (e) The long-range plan for sustainability of the proposed
91 311 system submitted by the applicant county or municipality.

92 Section 2. The sum of \$10 million is appropriated from the
93 General Revenue Fund to the Department of Community Affairs for
94 the purpose of funding the coordinated 311 nonemergency and
95 other governmental services telephone system grant program
96 created by this act for the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

97 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.