

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to state aid to public libraries; amending
 3 s. 257.172, F.S.; revising grant eligibility criteria for
 4 multicounty libraries; revising determination for and
 5 amount of base grants; amending s. 257.18, F.S.; revising
 6 eligibility criteria, calculation, and determination for
 7 equalization grants; limiting grants and grant amounts
 8 under specified conditions; amending s. 257.22, F.S.;
 9 removing a requirement for issuance of warrants to
 10 political subdivisions eligible for certain funding;
 11 providing an effective date.

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

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 15 Section 1. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 257.172,
 16 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

17 257.172 Multicounty library grants.--

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

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

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

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

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

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

39 (2) In addition, to support multicounty library service,
40 the administrative unit of a multicounty library with:

41 (a) Two participating counties is eligible to receive a
42 base grant of \$50,000, effective July 1, 2007.

43 (b) Three or more participating counties is eligible to
44 receive a base grant of a minimum of \$250,000. Such amount shall
45 be increased to \$350,000 when the appropriation from state funds
46 for operating, multicounty, and equalization grants is at least
47 3 percent more than the appropriation from state funds for those
48 grants for fiscal year 2006-2007 ~~to support multicounty library~~
49 ~~service. That amount may be adjusted by the division based on~~
50 ~~the percentage change in the state and local government price~~
51 ~~deflator for purchases of goods and services, all items, 1983~~
52 ~~equals 100, or successor reports for the preceding calendar year~~
53 ~~as initially reported by the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the~~
54 ~~United States Department of Commerce, as certified by the~~
55 ~~Florida Consensus Estimating Conference.~~

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

58 257.18 Equalization grants.--

59 (1) Any county qualifying for an operating grant is
 60 eligible to receive an equalization grant if it meets the
 61 following criteria:

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

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

69 (c) The county operating millage subject to the 10-mill
 70 cap is equal to or above the average for all counties. If the
 71 county does not meet this millage requirement, the per capita
 72 income for the county must be equal to or below the average for
 73 all counties.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

90 (a) The equalization factor is computed by subtracting the
 91 value of 1 mill adjusted to reflect the average statewide level
 92 of assessment for each county from the average adjusted value of
 93 1 mill for all counties and then dividing that amount by the
 94 average adjusted value of 1 mill for all counties.

95 (b) An equalization grant is computed by multiplying the
 96 equalization factor times the total local funds expended for
 97 library support by that county during the second-preceding year
 98 and adding that amount to the actual total local funds expended
 99 for library support by that county during the second preceding
 100 year. The result is the adjusted value for the local funds
 101 expended for library service. The amount of the equalization
 102 grant is equal to 25 cents of the adjusted value of local funds
 103 expended for library service.

104 (c)~~(2)~~ When the adjusted mill equivalent of actual local
 105 funds expended for library support by the county during the
 106 second preceding year is above the statewide average adjusted
 107 mill equivalent of actual local funds expended by all counties
 108 receiving operating grants, the amount of the equalization grant
 109 is equal to 50 cents of the adjusted value of local funds
 110 expended for library service.

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

114 (5)~~(3)~~ The Division of Library and Information Services
 115 shall calculate equalization grants based on the amount of local
 116 funds expended for library service the second preceding year as
 117 certified by the appropriate county officials and information on
 118 the level of assessment of property in each county, ~~and~~ the
 119 taxable value of property in each county, the county operating
 120 millage subject to the 10-mill cap, and the per capita income as
 121 reported by the ~~state~~ agency authorized by law, ~~which shall~~
 122 ~~certify the results of such determination to the division.~~

123 (6)~~(4)~~ For the purposes of this section, ~~s. 257.21 does~~
 124 ~~not apply~~ and to protect those counties most dependent on
 125 equalization grants, the amount available to fund equalization
 126 grants shall remain frozen at the fiscal year 2006-2007 level of
 127 \$8,877,057 until 15 percent of the total appropriation for
 128 operating, multicounty, and equalization grants equals the
 129 fiscal year 2006-2007 funding level. Thereafter, equalization
 130 grants may not exceed 15 percent of the amount appropriated for
 131 operating, multicounty, and equalization grants. If the total
 132 appropriation for operating, multicounty, and equalization
 133 grants is less than the fiscal year 2006-2007 appropriation of
 134 \$31,999,233, then s. 257.21 shall apply.

135 Section 3. Section 257.22, Florida Statutes, is amended to
 136 read:

137 257.22 Division of Library and Information Services;
 138 allocation of funds.--Any moneys that may be appropriated for

HB 801

2007

139 use by a county, a municipality, a special district, or a
140 special tax district for the maintenance of a library or library
141 service shall be administered and allocated by the Division of
142 Library and Information Services in the manner prescribed by
143 law. On or before December 1 of each year, the division shall
144 certify to the Chief Financial Officer the amount to be paid to
145 each county, municipality, special district, or special tax
146 district, ~~and the Chief Financial Officer shall issue warrants~~
147 ~~to the eligible political subdivisions.~~

148 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.