

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, 2008.

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 2007-2008 ~~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 2007-2008.

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 2007-2008.

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 and to protect  
 124 those counties most dependent on equalization grants, the amount  
 125 available to fund equalization grants shall remain frozen at the  
 126 fiscal year 2007-2008 level of \$8,877,057 until 15 percent of  
 127 the total appropriation for operating, multicounty, and  
 128 equalization grants equals the fiscal year 2007-2008 funding  
 129 level. Thereafter, equalization grants may not exceed 15 percent  
 130 of the amount appropriated for operating, multicounty, and  
 131 equalization grants. If the total appropriation for operating,  
 132 multicounty, and equalization grants is less than the fiscal  
 133 year 2007-2008 appropriation of \$31,999,233, then s. 257.21  
 134 shall, ~~s. 257.21 does not~~ 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

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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, 2008.