

By the Committee on Transportation and Economic Development
Appropriations; and Senators Fasano, Justice, Lynn, Jones, Gaetz
and Bullard

606-04977-08

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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.

12
13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

14
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 grant
24 must be computed by the division on a state matching basis up to
25 \$1 million in local expenditures by all participating counties
26 for operation and maintenance of a library during the second
27 preceding year. The administrative unit of a multicounty library
28 with:

29 (a) Two participating counties is eligible for a grant

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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 3
47 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 the~~
50 ~~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 Florida~~
55 ~~Consensus Estimating Conference.~~

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

58 257.18 Equalization grants.--

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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 cap
70 is equal to or above the average for all counties. If the county
71 does not meet this millage requirement, the per capita income for
72 the county must be equal to or below the average for all
73 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-thirds
83 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.

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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

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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) Equalization grants may not exceed 15 percent of the
124 amount appropriated for operating, multicounty, and equalization
125 grants or \$8,877,057, whichever is greater. Any reductions in
126 equalization grants necessary to meet this requirement must be
127 applied to all equalization grants on a prorated basis. This
128 includes grants subject to the 10-percent cap or grants in the
129 phase-out period. If the total appropriation for operating,
130 multicounty, and equalization grants is less than \$31,999,233 ~~For~~
131 ~~the purposes of this section, s. 257.21 applies does not apply.~~

132 Section 3. Section 257.22, Florida Statutes, is amended to
133 read:

134 257.22 Division of Library and Information Services;
135 allocation of funds.--Any moneys that may be appropriated for use
136 by a county, a municipality, a special district, or a special tax
137 district for the maintenance of a library or library service
138 shall be administered and allocated by the Division of Library
139 and Information Services in the manner prescribed by law. On or
140 before December 1 of each year, the division shall certify to the
141 Chief Financial Officer the amount to be paid to each county,
142 municipality, special district, or special tax district, ~~and the~~
143 ~~Chief Financial Officer shall issue warrants to the eligible~~
144 ~~political subdivisions.~~

145 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.