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1  
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.