

By Senator Fasano

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to county government funding; creating  
3           s. 125.595, F.S.; providing circumstances under which  
4           a board of county commissioners may use certain  
5           revenues for a purpose other than that specified by  
6           law; defining the term "eligible county"; specifying  
7           that county eligibility must be determined annually  
8           and exercised for a limited time; prohibiting the use  
9           of certain revenues for such purposes; providing an  
10          effective date.

11  
12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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14           Section 1. Section 125.595, Florida Statutes, is created to  
15 read:

16           125.595 Economic distress flexibility.-

17           (1) The board of county commissioners of an eligible county  
18 may, by a two-thirds vote of the membership of the board, use  
19 revenues from distributions of state taxes to the county or from  
20 taxes authorized by the Legislature to be imposed by the county  
21 for a purpose other than that specified in the law providing for  
22 the distributions or authorizing the imposition of the taxes.

23           (2) As used in this section, the term "eligible county"  
24 means a county that meets three of the following criteria, as  
25 determined by the Office of Economic and Demographic Research:

26           (a) The just value of property subject to ad valorem tax as  
27 of January 1 was lower than it was on the previous January 1.

28           (b) The annual per capita personal income of the county for  
29 the most recent calendar year was lower than for the prior

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30 calendar year.

31 (c) State sales tax remitted from within the county during  
32 the most recent calendar year was less than during the prior  
33 calendar year.

34 (d) The unemployment rate in the county in the previous  
35 calendar year was greater than 8 percent.

36 (e) The county was included in a major federal disaster or  
37 emergency declaration in the previous calendar year.

38 (3) The determination that a county is an eligible county  
39 must be made each year, and the authority granted under this  
40 section may be exercised only one fiscal year at a time.

41 (4) The authority granted under this section does not apply  
42 to revenues that may be used only for a purpose specified in the  
43 State Constitution or to revenues from taxes levied with the  
44 approval of the voters.

45 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.