

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

10
 11 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

12
 13 Section 1. Section 125.595, Florida Statutes, is created
 14 to read:

15 125.595 Economic distress flexibility.-

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

HB 889

2011

28 (b) The annual per capita personal income of the county
29 for the most recent calendar year was lower than for the prior
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 only be exercised one fiscal year at a time.

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

45 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.