

By Senator Abruzzo

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to municipal road projects; providing
3 a short title; creating the Disadvantaged Cities Road
4 Assistance Program within the Department of
5 Transportation to provide funding for certain road
6 projects; defining the term "disadvantaged city";
7 providing criteria for selection of municipalities to
8 receive funding; authorizing the department to
9 administer contracts on behalf of a municipality;
10 requiring funded projects to be included in the
11 department's work program; providing an effective
12 date.

14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

16 Section 1. Disadvantaged cities road improvement.—

17 (1) This section may be cited as the "Disadvantaged Cities
18 Road Improvement Act."

19 (2) The Legislature recognizes that it is in the public
20 interest to provide a source of funding for disadvantaged cities
21 to resurface or reconstruct municipal roads. The Legislature
22 finds that investment in disadvantaged cities that meet the
23 criteria in this section has a high probability of creating
24 jobs, increasing economic activity, improving safety, and
25 increasing property values to assist disadvantaged cities to
26 achieve and maintain economic sustainability.

27 (3) There is created the Disadvantaged Cities Road
28 Assistance Program within the Department of Transportation. The
29 purpose of the program is to assist disadvantaged municipal

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30 governments in resurfacing or reconstructing municipal roads.

31 (4) As used in this section, the term "disadvantaged city"
32 means a municipality:

33 (a) That has a population of 40,000 or less according to
34 the most recent federal census;

35 (b) With at least 25 percent of its population below the
36 poverty level; and

37 (c) That has a combined millage rate exceeding 8.5 mills in
38 its most recent fiscal year.

39 (5) Beginning with fiscal year 2014-2015, up to \$25 million
40 annually from the State Transportation Trust Fund may be used
41 for the purposes of funding the Disadvantaged Cities Road
42 Assistance Program.

43 (6) Disadvantaged cities may compete for funds that have
44 been designated for the program for resurfacing or
45 reconstruction projects on roads that were part of the municipal
46 road system on January 1, 2010. Capacity improvements on
47 municipal roads are not eligible for funding under the program.

48 (a) In determining a municipality's eligibility for funds
49 under the program, the department may consider whether the
50 municipality has attempted to keep its roads in satisfactory
51 condition. The department may also consider the extent to which
52 the municipality has offered to provide a match of local funds
53 for the state funds provided under the program. To receive funds
54 under the program, a municipality must provide at least 25
55 percent of the total project cost.

56 (b) The following criteria must be used to prioritize road
57 projects for funding:

58 1. The primary criteria are:

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59 a. The physical condition of the road as measured by the
60 department.

61 b. Whether the road is to be resurfaced or reconstructed as
62 part of a municipality's comprehensive resurfacing or
63 reconstruction of the road, including whether the municipality
64 will contemporaneously install or repair utilities related to
65 the road, including water, sewer, drainage, or sidewalks.

66 2. The secondary criteria are:

67 a. Whether the road is used as an evacuation route or leads
68 to an evacuation route.

69 b. Whether the road is within a 1-mile radius of a school.

70 (7) The Department of Transportation may administer
71 contracts on behalf of a municipality selected to receive
72 funding for a project under this section. All projects funded
73 under this section shall be included in the department's work
74 program.

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