

Amendment No.

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

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1 Representative Hutson offered the following:

2
3 **Amendment (with title amendment)**

4 Remove lines 331-1035 and insert:

5 Section 8. Subsection (1) of section 288.018, Florida
6 Statutes, is amended to read:

7 288.018 Regional Rural Development Grants Program.—

8 (1) The department shall establish a matching grant
9 program to provide funding to regionally based economic
10 development organizations representing rural counties and
11 communities for the purpose of building the professional
12 capacity of their organizations. Such matching grants may also
13 be used by an economic development organization to provide
14 technical assistance to businesses within the rural counties and

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15 communities that it serves. The department is authorized to
16 approve, on an annual basis, grants to such regionally based
17 economic development organizations. The maximum amount an
18 organization may receive in any year will be \$50,000 ~~\$35,000~~, or
19 \$150,000 ~~\$100,000~~ in a rural area of opportunity ~~critical~~
20 ~~economic concern~~ recommended by the Rural Economic Development
21 Initiative and designated by the Governor, and must be matched
22 each year by an equivalent amount of nonstate resources.

23 Section 9. Subsection (7) of section 288.987, Florida
24 Statutes, is amended to read:

25 288.987 Florida Defense Support Task Force.—

26 (7) The department shall contract with the task force for
27 expenditure of appropriated funds, which may be used by the task
28 force for economic and product research and development, joint
29 planning with host communities to accommodate military missions
30 and prevent base encroachment, advocacy on the state's behalf
31 with federal civilian and military officials, assistance to
32 school districts in providing a smooth transition for large
33 numbers of additional military-related students, job training
34 and placement for military spouses in communities with high
35 proportions of active duty military personnel, and promotion of
36 the state to military and related contractors and employers. The
37 task force may annually spend up to \$250,000 ~~\$200,000~~ of funds
38 appropriated to the department for the task force for staffing
39 and administrative expenses of the task force, including travel

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40 and per diem costs incurred by task force members who are not
41 otherwise eligible for state reimbursement.

42 Section 10. Section 290.0411, Florida Statutes, is amended
43 to read:

44 290.0411 Legislative intent and purpose of ss. 290.0401-
45 290.048.—It is the intent of the Legislature to provide the
46 necessary means to develop, preserve, redevelop, and revitalize
47 Florida communities exhibiting signs of decline, ~~or~~ distress, or
48 economic need by enabling local governments to undertake the
49 necessary community and economic development programs. The
50 overall objective is to create viable communities by eliminating
51 slum and blight, fortifying communities in urgent need,
52 providing decent housing and suitable living environments, and
53 expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low
54 or moderate income. The purpose of ss. 290.0401-290.048 is to
55 assist local governments in carrying out effective community and
56 economic development and project planning and design activities
57 to arrest and reverse community decline and restore community
58 vitality. Community and economic development and project
59 planning activities to maintain viable communities, revitalize
60 existing communities, expand economic development and employment
61 opportunities, and improve housing conditions and expand housing
62 opportunities, providing direct benefit to persons of low or
63 moderate income, are the primary purposes of ss. 290.0401-
64 290.048. The Legislature, therefore, declares that the
65 development, redevelopment, preservation, and revitalization of

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66 communities in this state and all the purposes of ss. 290.0401-
67 290.048 are public purposes for which public money may be
68 borrowed, expended, loaned, pledged to guarantee loans, and
69 granted.

70 Section 11. Section 290.044, Florida Statutes, is amended
71 to read:

72 290.044 Florida Small Cities Community Development Block
73 Grant Program Fund; administration; distribution.—

74 (1) The Florida Small Cities Community Development Block
75 Grant Program Fund is created. All revenue designated for
76 deposit in such fund shall be deposited by the appropriate
77 agency. The department shall administer this fund as a grant and
78 loan guarantee program for carrying out the purposes of ss.
79 290.0401-290.048.

80 (2) The department shall distribute such funds as loan
81 guarantees and grants to eligible local governments on the basis
82 of a competitive selection process established by rule.

83 (3) The department shall require applicants for grants to
84 compete against each other in the following grant program
85 categories:

86 (a) Housing rehabilitation.

87 (b) Economic development.

88 (c) Neighborhood revitalization.

89 (d) Commercial revitalization.

90 (4) ~~(3)~~ The department shall define ~~the~~ broad community
91 development objectives ~~objective~~ to be achieved by the

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92 activities in each of the ~~following~~ grant program categories
93 with the use of funds from the Florida Small Cities Community
94 Development Block Grant Program Fund. Such objectives shall be
95 designed to meet at least one of the national objectives
96 provided in the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974,
97 ~~and require applicants for grants to compete against each other~~
98 ~~in these grant program categories:~~

99 ~~(a) Housing.~~

100 ~~(b) Economic development.~~

101 ~~(c) Neighborhood revitalization.~~

102 ~~(d) Commercial revitalization.~~

103 ~~(e) Project planning and design.~~

104 (5)-(4) The department may set aside an amount of up to 5
105 percent of the funds annually for use in any eligible local
106 government jurisdiction for which an emergency or natural
107 disaster has been declared by executive order. Such funds may
108 only be provided to a local government to fund eligible
109 emergency-related activities for which no other source of
110 federal, state, or local disaster funds is available. The
111 department may provide for such set-aside by rule. In the last
112 quarter of the state fiscal year, any funds not allocated under
113 the emergency-related set-aside shall be distributed to unfunded
114 applications from the most recent funding cycle.

115 (6)-(5) The department shall establish a system of
116 monitoring grants, including site visits, to ensure the proper
117 expenditure of funds and compliance with the conditions of the

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118 recipient's contract. The department shall establish criteria
119 for implementation of internal control, to include, but not be
120 limited to, the following measures:

121 (a) Ensuring that subrecipient audits performed by a
122 certified public accountant are received and responded to in a
123 timely manner.

124 (b) Establishing a uniform system of monitoring that
125 documents appropriate followup as needed.

126 (c) Providing specific justification for contract
127 amendments that takes into account any change in contracted
128 activities and the resultant cost adjustments which shall be
129 reflected in the amount of the grant.

130 Section 12. Section 290.046, Florida Statutes, is amended
131 to read:

132 290.046 Applications for grants; procedures;
133 requirements.—

134 (1) In applying for a grant under a specific program
135 category, an applicant shall propose eligible activities that
136 directly address the objectives ~~objective~~ of that program
137 category.

138 (2) (a) Not including applications for economic development
139 grants ~~Except~~ as provided for in subparagraph (b)1. ~~paragraph~~
140 ~~(e)~~, each eligible local government may submit one ~~an~~
141 application for a grant ~~under either the housing program~~
142 ~~category or the neighborhood revitalization program category~~
143 during each application ~~annual funding~~ cycle. ~~An applicant may~~

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144 ~~not receive more than one grant in any state fiscal year from~~
145 ~~any of the following categories: housing, neighborhood~~
146 ~~revitalization, or commercial revitalization.~~

147 (b) ~~1. An Except as provided in paragraph (c), each~~
148 eligible local government may apply up to three times in any one
149 annual funding cycle for an economic development a grant ~~under~~
150 ~~the economic development program category~~ but may not ~~shall~~
151 receive ~~no~~ more than one such grant per annual funding cycle. A
152 local government may have more than one open economic
153 development grant ~~Applications for grants under the economic~~
154 ~~development program category may be submitted at any time during~~
155 ~~the annual funding cycle, and such grants shall be awarded no~~
156 ~~less frequently than three times per funding cycle.~~

157 2. The department shall establish minimum criteria
158 pertaining to the number of jobs created for persons of low or
159 moderate income, the degree of private-sector ~~private sector~~
160 financial commitment, and the economic feasibility of the
161 proposed project and shall establish any other criteria the
162 department deems appropriate. Assistance to a private, for-
163 profit business may not be provided from a grant award unless
164 sufficient evidence exists to demonstrate that without such
165 public assistance the creation or retention of such jobs would
166 not occur.

167 (c) 1. A local government ~~governments~~ with an open housing
168 rehabilitation, neighborhood revitalization, or commercial
169 revitalization contract is ~~shall~~ not be eligible to apply for

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170 another housing rehabilitation, neighborhood revitalization, or
171 commercial revitalization grant until administrative closeout of
172 its ~~their~~ existing contract. The department shall notify a local
173 government of administrative closeout or of any outstanding
174 closeout issues within 45 days after ~~of~~ receipt of a closeout
175 package from the local government. A local government
176 ~~governments~~ with an open housing rehabilitation, neighborhood
177 revitalization, or commercial revitalization community
178 development block grant contract whose activities are on
179 schedule in accordance with the expenditure rates and
180 accomplishments described in the contract may apply for an
181 economic development grant.

182 2. A local government ~~governments~~ with an open economic
183 development community development block grant contract whose
184 activities are on schedule in accordance with the expenditure
185 rates and accomplishments described in the contract may apply
186 for a housing rehabilitation, ~~or~~ neighborhood revitalization, or
187 ~~and a~~ commercial revitalization community development block
188 grant. A local government ~~governments~~ with an open economic
189 development contract whose activities are on schedule in
190 accordance with the expenditure rates and accomplishments
191 described in the contract may not receive ~~no~~ more than one
192 additional economic development grant in each fiscal year.

193 (d) ~~Beginning October 1, 1988,~~ The department may not
194 ~~shall~~ award a ~~no~~ grant until it ~~the department~~ has conducted
195 ~~determined, based upon~~ a site visit to verify the information

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196 ~~contained in the local government's application, that the~~
197 ~~proposed area matches and adheres to the written description~~
198 ~~contained within the applicant's request. If, based upon review~~
199 ~~of the application or a site visit, the department determines~~
200 ~~that any information provided in the application which affects~~
201 ~~eligibility or scoring has been misrepresented, the applicant's~~
202 ~~request shall be rejected by the department pursuant to s.~~
203 ~~290.0475(7). Mathematical errors in applications which may be~~
204 ~~discovered and corrected by readily computing available numbers~~
205 ~~or formulas provided in the application shall not be a basis for~~
206 ~~such rejection.~~

207 (3) (a) The department shall rank each application received
208 during the application cycle according to criteria established
209 by rule. The ranking system shall include a procedure to
210 eliminate or reduce any population-related bias that places
211 exceptionally small communities at a disadvantage in the
212 competition for funds ~~Each application shall be ranked~~
213 ~~competitively based on community need and program impact.~~
214 ~~Community need shall be weighted 25 percent. Program impact~~
215 ~~shall be weighted 65 percent. Outstanding performance in equal~~
216 ~~opportunity employment and housing shall be weighted 10 percent.~~

217 (b) Funds shall be distributed according to the rankings
218 established in each application cycle. If economic development
219 funds remain available after the application cycle closes, the
220 remaining funds shall be awarded to eligible projects on a
221 first-come, first-served basis until such funds are fully

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222 ~~obligated~~ The criteria used to measure community need shall
223 ~~include, at a minimum, indicators of the extent of poverty in~~
224 ~~the community and the condition of physical structures. Each~~
225 ~~application, regardless of the program category for which it is~~
226 ~~being submitted, shall be scored competitively on the same~~
227 ~~community need criteria. In recognition of the benefits~~
228 ~~resulting from the receipt of grant funds, the department shall~~
229 ~~provide for the reduction of community need scores for specified~~
230 ~~increments of grant funds provided to a local government since~~
231 ~~the state began using the most recent census data. In the year~~
232 ~~in which new census data are first used, no such reduction shall~~
233 ~~occur.~~

234 (c) The application's program impact score, equal
235 employment opportunity and fair housing score, and communitywide
236 needs score may take into consideration scoring factors
237 including, but not limited to, unemployment, poverty levels,
238 low-income and moderate-income populations, benefits to low-
239 income and moderate-income residents, use of minority-owned and
240 woman-owned business enterprises in previous grants, health and
241 safety issues, and the condition of physical structures ~~The~~
242 ~~criteria used to measure the impact of an applicant's proposed~~
243 ~~activities shall include, at a minimum, indicators of the direct~~
244 ~~benefit received by persons of low income and persons of~~
245 ~~moderate income, the extent to which the problem identified is~~
246 ~~addressed by the proposed activities, and the extent to which~~

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247 ~~resources other than the funds being applied for under this~~
248 ~~program are being used to carry out the proposed activities.~~

249 ~~(d) Applications shall be scored competitively on program~~
250 ~~impact criteria that are uniquely tailored to the community~~
251 ~~development objective established in each program category. The~~
252 ~~criteria used to measure the direct benefit to persons of low~~
253 ~~income and persons of moderate income shall represent no less~~
254 ~~than 42 percent of the points assigned to the program impact~~
255 ~~factor. For the housing and neighborhood revitalization~~
256 ~~categories, the department shall also include the following~~
257 ~~criteria in the scoring of applications:~~

258 ~~1. The proportion of very low income and low income~~
259 ~~households served.~~

260 ~~2. The degree to which improvements are related to the~~
261 ~~health and safety of the households served.~~

262 ~~(4) An applicant for a neighborhood revitalization or~~
263 ~~commercial revitalization grant shall demonstrate that its~~
264 ~~activities are to be carried out in distinct service areas which~~
265 ~~are characterized by the existence of slums or blighted~~
266 ~~conditions, or by the concentration of persons of low or~~
267 ~~moderate income.~~

268 ~~(4)-(5)~~ In order to provide citizens with information
269 concerning an applicant's proposed project, the applicant shall
270 make available to the public information concerning the amounts
271 of funds available for various activities and the range of
272 activities that may be undertaken. In addition, the applicant

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273 shall hold a minimum of two public hearings in the local
274 jurisdiction within which the project is to be implemented to
275 obtain the views of citizens before submitting the final
276 application to the department. The applicant shall conduct the
277 initial hearing to solicit public input concerning community
278 needs, inform the public about funding opportunities available
279 to address community needs, and discuss activities that may be
280 undertaken. Before a second public hearing is held, the
281 applicant must publish a summary of the proposed application to
282 provide citizens with an opportunity to examine the contents of
283 the application and submit comments. The applicant shall conduct
284 a second hearing to obtain comments from citizens concerning the
285 proposed application and to modify the proposed application if
286 appropriate ~~program before an application is submitted to the~~
287 ~~department, the applicant shall:~~

288 ~~(a) Make available to the public information concerning~~
289 ~~the amounts of funds available for various activities and the~~
290 ~~range of activities that may be undertaken.~~

291 ~~(b) Hold at least one public hearing to obtain the views~~
292 ~~of citizens on community development needs.~~

293 ~~(c) Develop and publish a summary of the proposed~~
294 ~~application that will provide citizens with an opportunity to~~
295 ~~examine its contents and submit their comments.~~

296 ~~(d) Consider any comments and views expressed by citizens~~
297 ~~on the proposed application and, if appropriate, modify the~~
298 ~~proposed application.~~

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299 ~~(c) Hold at least one public hearing in the jurisdiction~~
300 ~~within which the project is to be implemented to obtain the~~
301 ~~views of citizens on the final application prior to its~~
302 ~~submission to the department.~~

303 ~~(5)-(6)~~ The local government may ~~shall~~ establish a citizen
304 advisory task force composed of citizens in the jurisdiction in
305 which the proposed project is to be implemented to provide input
306 relative to all phases of the project process. ~~The local~~
307 ~~government must obtain consent from the department for any other~~
308 ~~type of citizen participation plan upon a showing that such plan~~
309 ~~is better suited to secure citizen participation for that~~
310 ~~locality.~~

311 ~~(6)-(7)~~ The department shall, before ~~prior to~~ approving an
312 application for a grant, determine whether ~~that~~ the applicant
313 has the administrative capacity to carry out the proposed
314 activities and has performed satisfactorily in carrying out past
315 activities funded by community development block grants. The
316 evaluation of past performance shall take into account
317 procedural aspects of previous grants as well as substantive
318 results. If the department determines that any applicant has
319 failed to accomplish substantially the results it proposed in
320 its last previously funded application, it may prohibit the
321 applicant from receiving a grant or may penalize the applicant
322 in the rating of the current application. An ~~No~~ application for
323 grant funds may not be denied solely upon the basis of the past
324 performance of the eligible applicant.

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325 Section 13. Subsections (3) and (6) of section 290.047,
326 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

327 290.047 Establishment of grant ceilings and maximum
328 administrative cost percentages; elimination of population bias;
329 loans in default.—

330 (3) The maximum percentage of block grant funds that can
331 be spent on administrative costs by an eligible local government
332 shall be 15 percent for the housing rehabilitation program
333 category, 8 percent for both the neighborhood and the commercial
334 revitalization program categories, and 8 percent for the
335 economic development program category. The maximum amount of
336 block grant funds that may be spent on administrative costs by
337 an eligible local government for the economic development
338 program category is \$120,000. The purpose of the ceiling is to
339 maximize the amount of block grant funds actually going toward
340 the redevelopment of the area. The department will continue to
341 encourage eligible local governments to consider ways to limit
342 the amount of block grant funds used for administrative costs,
343 consistent with the need for prudent management and
344 accountability in the use of public funds. However, this
345 subsection does ~~shall not be construed, however, to prohibit~~
346 eligible local governments from contributing their own funds or
347 making in-kind contributions to cover administrative costs which
348 exceed the prescribed ceilings, provided that all such
349 contributions come from local government resources other than
350 Community Development Block Grant funds.

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351 (6) The maximum amount ~~percentage~~ of block grant funds
352 that may be spent on engineering and architectural costs by an
353 eligible local government shall be determined in accordance with
354 a method ~~schedule~~ adopted by the department by rule. Any such
355 method ~~schedule~~ so adopted shall be consistent with the schedule
356 used by the United States Farmer's Home Administration as
357 applied to projects in Florida or another comparable schedule as
358 amended.

359 Section 14. Section 290.0475, Florida Statutes, is amended
360 to read:

361 290.0475 Rejection of grant applications; penalties for
362 failure to meet application conditions.—Applications ~~received~~
363 for funding ~~under all program categories~~ shall be rejected if
364 ~~without scoring only in the event that~~ any of the following
365 circumstances arise:

366 (1) The application is not received by the department by
367 the application deadline;—

368 (2) The proposed project does not meet one of the three
369 national objectives as contained in federal and state
370 legislation;—

371 (3) The proposed project is not an eligible activity as
372 contained in the federal legislation;—

373 (4) The application is not consistent with the local
374 government's comprehensive plan adopted pursuant to s.
375 163.3184;—

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376 (5) The applicant has an open community development block
377 grant, except as provided in s. 290.046(2)(b) and (c) and
378 department rules; ~~290.046(2)(e).~~

379 (6) The local government is not in compliance with the
380 citizen participation requirements prescribed in ss. 104(a)(1)
381 and (2) and 106(d)(5)(c) of Title I of the Housing and Community
382 Development Act of 1974, s. 290.046(4), ~~1984~~ and department
383 rules; or.

384 (7) Any information provided in the application that
385 affects eligibility or scoring is found to have been
386 misrepresented, and the information is not a mathematical error
387 which may be discovered and corrected by readily computing
388 available numbers or formulas provided in the application.

389 Section 15. Subsection (5) of section 290.048, Florida
390 Statutes, is amended to read:

391 290.048 General powers of department under ss. 290.0401-
392 290.048.—The department has all the powers necessary or
393 appropriate to carry out the purposes and provisions of the
394 program, including the power to:

395 ~~(5) Adopt and enforce strict requirements concerning an~~
396 ~~applicant's written description of a service area. Each such~~
397 ~~description shall contain maps which illustrate the location of~~
398 ~~the proposed service area. All such maps must be clearly legible~~
399 ~~and must:~~

400 ~~(a) Contain a scale which is clearly marked on the map.~~

401 ~~(b) Show the boundaries of the locality.~~

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402 ~~(c) Show the boundaries of the service area where the~~
403 ~~activities will be concentrated.~~

404 ~~(d) Display the location of all proposed area activities.~~

405 ~~(e) Include the names of streets, route numbers, or easily~~
406 ~~identifiable landmarks where all service activities are located.~~

407 Section 16. Subsection (5) and paragraph (b) of subsection
408 (8) of section 331.3051, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

409 331.3051 Duties of Space Florida.—Space Florida shall:

410 (5) Consult with the Florida Tourism Industry Marketing
411 Corporation Enterprise Florida, Inc., in developing a space
412 tourism marketing plan. Space Florida and the Florida Tourism
413 Industry Marketing Corporation Enterprise Florida, Inc., may
414 enter into a mutually beneficial agreement that provides funding
415 to the corporation Enterprise Florida, Inc., for its services to
416 implement this subsection.

417 (8) Carry out its responsibility for research and
418 development by:

419 (b) Working in collaboration with one or more public or
420 private universities and other public or private entities to
421 ~~develop a proposal for a Center of Excellence for Aerospace that~~
422 ~~will~~ foster and promote the research necessary to develop
423 commercially promising, advanced, and innovative science and
424 technology and ~~will~~ transfer those discoveries to the commercial
425 sector. Space Florida may develop a proposal to establish a
426 Center of Excellence for Aerospace in conjunction with this
427 effort.

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428 Section 17. Paragraphs (b) through (e) of subsection (1)
429 of section 443.1116, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as
430 paragraphs (c) through (f), respectively, a new paragraph (b) is
431 added to that subsection, paragraphs (d), (g), and (h) of
432 subsection (2) of that section are amended, paragraphs (i) and
433 (j) are added to that subsection, paragraph (c) of subsection
434 (5) of that section is redesignated as paragraph (d), and a new
435 paragraph (c) is added to that subsection, to read:

436 443.1116 Short-time compensation.—

437 (1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

438 (b) "Employer-sponsored training" means a training
439 component sponsored by an employer to improve the skills of the
440 employer's employees.

441 (2) APPROVAL OF SHORT-TIME COMPENSATION PLANS.—An employer
442 wishing to participate in the short-time compensation program
443 must submit a signed, written, short-time plan to the Department
444 of Economic Opportunity for approval. The director or his or her
445 designee shall approve the plan if:

446 (d) The plan includes a certified statement by the
447 employer that the aggregate reduction in work hours is in lieu
448 of ~~temporary~~ layoffs that would affect at least 10 percent of
449 the employees in the affected unit and that would have resulted
450 in an equivalent reduction in work hours;

451 (g) The plan does not serve as a subsidy to seasonal
452 employers during the off-season or as a subsidy to employers who
453 traditionally use part-time employees; ~~and~~

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454 (h) The plan certifies that fringe benefits provided by
455 the employer to an employee whose workweek is reduced under the
456 short-time compensation program will be provided by the employer
457 under the same terms and conditions as though the workweek of
458 the employee had not been reduced or to the same extent as other
459 employees who are not participants in the program ~~the manner in~~
460 ~~which the employer will treat fringe benefits of the individuals~~
461 ~~in the affected unit if the hours of the individuals are reduced~~
462 ~~to less than their normal weekly hours of work.~~ As used in this
463 paragraph, the term "fringe benefits" includes, but is not
464 limited to, health insurance, retirement benefits under defined
465 benefit pension plans as defined in subsection 35 of s. 1002 of
466 the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, 29 U.S.C.,
467 contributions under a defined contribution plan as defined in s.
468 414(i) of the Internal Revenue Code, paid vacation and holidays,
469 and sick leave;

470 (i) The plan describes the manner in which the
471 requirements of this subsection will be implemented. The
472 description shall include a plan for providing notice, if
473 feasible, to an employee whose workweek is to be reduced under
474 the short-time compensation program. Such notice shall include
475 an estimate of the number of layoffs that would have occurred if
476 not for the program; and

477 (j) The terms of the employer's written plan and
478 implementation are consistent with employer obligations under
479 applicable federal and state laws.

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480 (5) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR SHORT-TIME COMPENSATION
481 BENEFITS.—

482 (c) The department may not deny short-time compensation
483 benefits to an individual who is otherwise eligible for these
484 benefits for any week because the individual is participating in
485 an employer-sponsored training or a training to improve job
486 skills that is authorized under the Workforce Investment Act and
487 approved by the department.

488 Section 18. Paragraph (f) of subsection (1) of section
489 443.141, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

490 443.141 Collection of contributions and reimbursements.—

491 (1) PAST DUE CONTRIBUTIONS AND REIMBURSEMENTS; DELINQUENT,
492 ERRONEOUS, INCOMPLETE, OR INSUFFICIENT REPORTS.—

493 (f) Payments for ~~2012, 2013, and 2014~~ contributions.—For
494 an annual administrative fee not to exceed \$5, a contributing
495 employer may pay its quarterly contributions due for wages paid
496 in the first three quarters of each year 2012, 2013, and 2014 in
497 equal installments if those contributions are paid as follows:

498 1. For contributions due for wages paid in the first
499 quarter of each year, one-fourth of the contributions due must
500 be paid on or before April 30, one-fourth must be paid on or
501 before July 31, one-fourth must be paid on or before October 31,
502 and one-fourth must be paid on or before December 31.

503 2. In addition to the payments specified in subparagraph
504 1., for contributions due for wages paid in the second quarter
505 of each year, one-third of the contributions due must be paid on

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506 or before July 31, one-third must be paid on or before October
507 31, and one-third must be paid on or before December 31.

508 3. In addition to the payments specified in subparagraphs
509 1. and 2., for contributions due for wages paid in the third
510 quarter of each year, one-half of the contributions due must be
511 paid on or before October 31, and one-half must be paid on or
512 before December 31.

513 4. The annual administrative fee assessed for electing to
514 pay under the installment method shall be collected at the time
515 the employer makes the first installment payment each year. The
516 fee shall be segregated from the payment and deposited into the
517 Operating Trust Fund of the Department of Revenue.

518 5. Interest does not accrue on any contribution that
519 becomes due for wages paid in the first three quarters of each
520 year if the employer pays the contribution in accordance with
521 subparagraphs 1.-4. Interest and fees continue to accrue on
522 prior delinquent contributions and commence accruing on all
523 contributions due for wages paid in the first three quarters of
524 each year which are not paid in accordance with subparagraphs
525 1.-3. Penalties may be assessed in accordance with this chapter.
526 The contributions due for wages paid in the fourth quarter ~~of~~
527 ~~2012, 2013, and 2014~~ are not affected by this paragraph and are
528 due and payable in accordance with this chapter.

529 Section 19. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
530 125.271, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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531 125.271 Emergency medical services; county emergency
532 medical service assessments.—

533 (1) As used in this section, the term "county" means:

534 (a) A county that is within a rural area of opportunity
535 ~~critical economic concern~~ as designated by the Governor pursuant
536 to s. 288.0656;

537

538 Once a county has qualified under this subsection, it always
539 retains the qualification.

540 Section 20. Paragraphs (a), (b), and (e) of subsection (7)
541 of section 163.3177, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

542 163.3177 Required and optional elements of comprehensive
543 plan; studies and surveys.—

544 (7)(a) The Legislature finds that:

545 1. There are a number of rural agricultural industrial
546 centers in the state that process, produce, or aid in the
547 production or distribution of a variety of agriculturally based
548 products, including, but not limited to, fruits, vegetables,
549 timber, and other crops, and juices, paper, and building
550 materials. Rural agricultural industrial centers have a
551 significant amount of existing associated infrastructure that is
552 used for processing, producing, or distributing agricultural
553 products.

554 2. Such rural agricultural industrial centers are often
555 located within or near communities in which the economy is
556 largely dependent upon agriculture and agriculturally based

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557 products. The centers significantly enhance the economy of such
558 communities. However, these agriculturally based communities are
559 often socioeconomically challenged and designated as rural areas
560 of opportunity ~~critical economic concern~~. If such rural
561 agricultural industrial centers are lost and not replaced with
562 other job-creating enterprises, the agriculturally based
563 communities will lose a substantial amount of their economies.

564 3. The state has a compelling interest in preserving the
565 viability of agriculture and protecting rural agricultural
566 communities and the state from the economic upheaval that would
567 result from short-term or long-term adverse changes in the
568 agricultural economy. To protect these communities and promote
569 viable agriculture for the long term, it is essential to
570 encourage and permit diversification of existing rural
571 agricultural industrial centers by providing for jobs that are
572 not solely dependent upon, but are compatible with and
573 complement, existing agricultural industrial operations and to
574 encourage the creation and expansion of industries that use
575 agricultural products in innovative ways. However, the expansion
576 and diversification of these existing centers must be
577 accomplished in a manner that does not promote urban sprawl into
578 surrounding agricultural and rural areas.

579 (b) As used in this subsection, the term "rural
580 agricultural industrial center" means a developed parcel of land
581 in an unincorporated area on which there exists an operating
582 agricultural industrial facility or facilities that employ at

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583 least 200 full-time employees in the aggregate and process and
584 prepare for transport a farm product, as defined in s. 163.3162,
585 or any biomass material that could be used, directly or
586 indirectly, for the production of fuel, renewable energy,
587 bioenergy, or alternative fuel as defined by law. The center may
588 also include land contiguous to the facility site which is not
589 used for the cultivation of crops, but on which other existing
590 activities essential to the operation of such facility or
591 facilities are located or conducted. The parcel of land must be
592 located within, or within 10 miles of, a rural area of
593 opportunity ~~critical economic concern~~.

594 (e) ~~Nothing in~~ This subsection does not ~~shall be construed~~
595 ~~to~~ confer the status of rural area of opportunity ~~critical~~
596 ~~economic concern~~, or any of the rights or benefits derived from
597 such status, on any land area not otherwise designated as such
598 pursuant to s. 288.0656(7).

599 Section 21. Subsection (3) of section 163.3187, Florida
600 Statutes, is amended to read:

601 163.3187 Process for adoption of small-scale comprehensive
602 plan amendment.—

603 (3) If the small scale development amendment involves a
604 site within a rural area of opportunity ~~critical economic~~
605 ~~concern~~ as defined under s. 288.0656(2)(d) for the duration of
606 such designation, the 10-acre limit listed in subsection (1)
607 shall be increased by 100 percent to 20 acres. The local
608 government approving the small scale plan amendment shall

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609 certify to the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic
610 Development that the plan amendment furthers the economic
611 objectives set forth in the executive order issued under s.
612 288.0656(7), and the property subject to the plan amendment
613 shall undergo public review to ensure that all concurrency
614 requirements and federal, state, and local environmental permit
615 requirements are met.

616 Section 22. Subsection (10) of section 163.3246, Florida
617 Statutes, is amended to read:

618 163.3246 Local government comprehensive planning
619 certification program.—

620 (10) Notwithstanding subsections (2), (4), (5), (6), and
621 (7), any municipality designated as a rural area of opportunity
622 ~~critical economic concern~~ pursuant to s. 288.0656 which is
623 located within a county eligible to levy the Small County Surtax
624 under s. 212.055(3) shall be considered certified during the
625 effectiveness of the designation of rural area of opportunity
626 ~~critical economic concern~~. The state land planning agency shall
627 provide a written notice of certification to the local
628 government of the certified area, which shall be considered
629 final agency action subject to challenge under s. 120.569. The
630 notice of certification shall include the following components:

- 631 (a) The boundary of the certification area.
632 (b) A requirement that the local government submit ~~either~~
633 an annual or biennial monitoring report to the state land
634 planning agency according to the schedule provided in the

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635 written notice. The monitoring report shall, at a minimum,
636 include the number of amendments to the comprehensive plan
637 adopted by the local government, the number of plan amendments
638 challenged by an affected person, and the disposition of those
639 challenges.

640 Section 23. Paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of section
641 211.3103, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

642 211.3103 Levy of tax on severance of phosphate rock; rate,
643 basis, and distribution of tax.—

644 (6) (a) Beginning July 1 of the 2011-2012 fiscal year, the
645 proceeds of all taxes, interest, and penalties imposed under
646 this section are exempt from the general revenue service charge
647 provided in s. 215.20, and such proceeds shall be paid into the
648 State Treasury as follows:

649 1. To the credit of the Conservation and Recreation Lands
650 Trust Fund, 25.5 percent.

651 2. To the credit of the General Revenue Fund of the state,
652 35.7 percent.

653 3. For payment to counties in proportion to the number of
654 tons of phosphate rock produced from a phosphate rock matrix
655 located within such political boundary, 12.8 percent. The
656 department shall distribute this portion of the proceeds
657 annually based on production information reported by the
658 producers on the annual returns for the taxable year. Any such
659 proceeds received by a county shall be used only for phosphate-
660 related expenses.

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661 4. For payment to counties that have been designated as a
662 rural area of opportunity ~~critical economic concern~~ pursuant to
663 s. 288.0656 in proportion to the number of tons of phosphate
664 rock produced from a phosphate rock matrix located within such
665 political boundary, 10.0 percent. The department shall
666 distribute this portion of the proceeds annually based on
667 production information reported by the producers on the annual
668 returns for the taxable year. Payments under this subparagraph
669 shall be made to the counties unless the Legislature by special
670 act creates a local authority to promote and direct the economic
671 development of the county. If such authority exists, payments
672 shall be made to that authority.

673 5. To the credit of the Nonmandatory Land Reclamation
674 Trust Fund, 6.2 percent.

675 6. To the credit of the Phosphate Research Trust Fund in
676 the Division of Universities of the Department of Education, 6.2
677 percent.

678 7. To the credit of the Minerals Trust Fund, 3.6 percent.

679 Section 24. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section
680 212.098, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

681 212.098 Rural Job Tax Credit Program.—

682 (1) As used in this section, the term:

683 (c) "Qualified area" means any area that is contained
684 within a rural area of opportunity ~~critical economic concern~~
685 designated under s. 288.0656, a county that has a population of
686 fewer than 75,000 persons, or a county that has a population of

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687 125,000 or less and is contiguous to a county that has a
688 population of less than 75,000, selected in the following
689 manner: every third year, the Department of Economic Opportunity
690 shall rank and tier the state's counties according to the
691 following four factors:

692 1. Highest unemployment rate for the most recent 36-month
693 period.

694 2. Lowest per capita income for the most recent 36-month
695 period.

696 3. Highest percentage of residents whose incomes are below
697 the poverty level, based upon the most recent data available.

698 4. Average weekly manufacturing wage, based upon the most
699 recent data available.

700 Section 25. Subsection (1) of section 218.67, Florida
701 Statutes, is amended to read:

702 218.67 Distribution for fiscally constrained counties.—

703 (1) Each county that is entirely within a rural area of
704 opportunity ~~critical economic concern~~ as designated by the
705 Governor pursuant to s. 288.0656 or each county for which the
706 value of a mill will raise no more than \$5 million in revenue,
707 based on the taxable value certified pursuant to s.
708 1011.62(4)(a)1.a., from the previous July 1, shall be considered
709 a fiscally constrained county.

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T I T L E A M E N D M E N T

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713 Remove lines 39-85 and insert:
714 288.018, F.S.; increasing the maximum grant amount
715 that an organization may receive from the department
716 under the Regional Rural Development Grants Program;
717 renaming a "rural area of critical economic concern"
718 as a "rural area of opportunity"; amending s. 288.987,
719 F.S.; increasing the amount of funds that may be spent
720 on staffing and administrative expenses of the Florida
721 Defense Support Task Force; amending s. 290.0411,
722 F.S.; revising legislative intent for purposes of the
723 Florida Small Cities Community Development Block Grant
724 Program; amending s. 290.044, F.S.; requiring the
725 department to adopt rules establishing a competitive
726 selection process for loan guarantees and grants
727 awarded under the block grant program; revising the
728 criteria for the award of grants; amending s. 290.046,
729 F.S.; revising limits on the number of grants that an
730 applicant may apply for and receive; requiring the
731 department to conduct a site visit before awarding a
732 grant; requiring the department to rank applications
733 according to criteria established by rule and
734 distribute funds according to the rankings; revising
735 scoring factors to consider in ranking applications;
736 revising requirements for public hearings; providing
737 that the creation of a citizen advisory task force is
738 discretionary; deleting a provision requiring a local

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739 government to obtain department consent for an
740 alternative citizen participation plan; amending s.
741 290.047, F.S.; revising the maximum percentages and
742 amounts of block grant funds that may be spent on
743 certain costs and expenses; amending s. 290.0475,
744 F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the
745 act; correcting a reference; amending s. 290.048,
746 F.S.; deleting a provision authorizing the department
747 to adopt and enforce strict requirements concerning an
748 applicant's written description of a service area;
749 amending s. 331.3051, F.S.; requiring Space Florida to
750 consult with the Florida Tourism Industry Marketing
751 Corporation in developing a space tourism marketing
752 plan; authorizing Space Florida to enter into an
753 agreement with the corporation for a specified
754 purpose; revising the research and development duties
755 of Space Florida; amending s. 443.1116, F.S.; defining
756 the term "employer-sponsored training"; revising
757 components required for approval of a short-time
758 compensation plan; revising eligibility requirements
759 for short-time compensation benefits; amending s.
760 443.141, F.S.; providing an employer payment schedule
761 for contributions to the Unemployment Compensation
762 Trust Fund; providing for applicability; amending ss.
763 125.271, 163.3177, 163.3187, 163.3246, 211.3103,
764 212.098, 218.67, 288.065, 288.0655, 288.0656,

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