

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to economic development; amending s.
3 163.3180, F.S.; prohibiting a local government from
4 applying transportation concurrency or requiring
5 proportionate-share contribution or construction for a
6 new business development for a specified period;
7 providing exceptions; amending s. 163.31801, F.S.;
8 prohibiting a county, municipality, or special
9 district from imposing certain new or existing impact
10 fees on a new business development for a specified
11 period; providing exceptions; amending s. 288.005,
12 F.S.; providing definitions; creating s. 288.006,
13 F.S.; providing requirements for loan programs
14 relating to accountability and proper stewardship of
15 funds; amending s. 290.0411, F.S.; revising
16 legislative intent for purposes of the Florida Small
17 Cities Community Development Block Grant Program;
18 amending s. 290.044, F.S.; requiring the Department of
19 Economic Opportunity to adopt rules establishing a
20 competitive selection process for loan guarantees and
21 grants awarded under the block grant program; revising
22 the criteria for the award of grants; amending s.
23 290.046, F.S.; revising limits on the number of grants
24 that an applicant may apply for and receive; requiring
25 the department to conduct a site visit before awarding
26 a grant; requiring the department to rank applications

27 according to criteria established by rule and
28 distribute funds according to the rankings; revising
29 scoring factors to consider in ranking applications;
30 revising requirements for public hearings; providing
31 that the creation of a citizen advisory task force is
32 discretionary; deleting a provision requiring a local
33 government to obtain department consent for an
34 alternative citizen participation plan; amending s.
35 290.047, F.S.; revising the maximum percentages and
36 amounts of block grant funds that may be spent on
37 certain costs and expenses; amending s. 290.0475,
38 F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the
39 act; amending s. 290.048, F.S.; deleting a provision
40 authorizing the department to adopt and enforce strict
41 requirements concerning an applicant's written
42 description of a service area; amending s. 331.3051,
43 F.S.; requiring Space Florida to consult with the
44 Florida Tourism Industry Marketing Corporation in
45 developing a space tourism marketing plan; authorizing
46 Space Florida to enter into an agreement with the
47 corporation for a specified purpose; revising the
48 research and development duties of Space Florida;
49 amending s. 443.141, F.S.; providing an employer
50 payment schedule for specified years' contributions to
51 the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund; providing
52 for applicability; amending ss. 125.271, 163.3177,

53 163.3187, 163.3246, 211.3103, 212.098, 218.67,
 54 288.018, 288.065, 288.0655, 288.0656, 288.1088,
 55 288.1089, 290.0055, 339.2819, 339.63, 373.4595,
 56 380.06, 380.0651, 985.686, and 1011.76, F.S.; renaming
 57 "rural areas of critical economic concern" as "rural
 58 areas of opportunity"; providing an effective date.
 59

60 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
 61

62 Section 1. Subsection (7) is added to section 163.3180,
 63 Florida Statutes, to read:

64 163.3180 Concurrency.—

65 (7) (a) Notwithstanding any provision of law, ordinance, or
 66 resolution, before July 1, 2017, a local government may not,
 67 unless authorized by majority vote of the local government's
 68 governing authority, apply transportation concurrency within its
 69 jurisdiction or require a proportionate-share contribution or
 70 construction for a new business development. This paragraph does
 71 not apply to:

72 1. Proportionate-share contribution or construction
 73 assessed on an existing business development before July 1,
 74 2014.

75 2. A new business development that consists of more than
 76 6,000 square feet and that is classified as other than
 77 residential.

78 (b) In order to maintain the exemption from transportation
 79 concurrency and proportionate-share contribution or construction
 80 pursuant to paragraph (a), a new business development must
 81 receive a certificate of occupancy on or before July 1, 2018. If
 82 the certificate of occupancy is not received by July 1, 2018,
 83 the local government may apply transportation concurrency and
 84 require the appropriate proportionate-share contribution or
 85 construction for the business development that would otherwise
 86 be applied, notwithstanding this subsection. Any outstanding
 87 obligation related to the proportionate-share contribution or
 88 construction runs with the land and is enforceable against any
 89 person claiming a fee interest in the land subject to that
 90 obligation.

91 (c) This subsection does not apply if it results in a
 92 reduction of previously pledged revenue of a local government
 93 for currently outstanding bonds or notes or to a local
 94 government with a mobility fee-based funding system in place on
 95 or before January 1, 2014.

96 (d) A developer may, upon written notification to the
 97 local government, elect to have the local government apply
 98 transportation concurrency and proportionate-share contribution
 99 or construction to a business development.

100 (e) This subsection expires July 1, 2018.

101 Section 2. Subsection (6) is added to section 163.31801,
 102 Florida Statutes, to read:

103 163.31801 Impact fees; short title; intent; definitions;

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104 ordinances levying impact fees.—

105 (6) (a) Notwithstanding any provision of law, ordinance, or
106 resolution, before July 1, 2017, a county, municipality, or
107 special district, unless authorized by majority vote of the
108 county's, municipality's, or special district's governing
109 authority, may not impose any new or existing impact fee or any
110 new or existing fee associated with the mitigation of
111 transportation impacts on a new business development. This
112 paragraph does not apply to:

113 1. Any impact fee or fee associated with the mitigation of
114 transportation impacts previously enacted by law, ordinance, or
115 resolution assessed on an existing business development before
116 July 1, 2014.

117 2. A new business development that consists of more than
118 6,000 square feet and that is classified as other than
119 residential.

120 (b) The governing authority of any county, municipality,
121 or special district imposing an impact fee in existence on July
122 1, 2013, must reauthorize the imposition of the fee pursuant to
123 this subsection.

124 (c) In order to maintain the exemption from impact fees
125 and fees associated with the mitigation of transportation
126 impacts pursuant to paragraph (a), a new business development
127 must receive a certificate of occupancy on or before July 1,
128 2018. If the certificate of occupancy is not received by July 1,
129 2018, the county, municipality, or special district may impose

130 the appropriate impact fees and fees associated with the
131 mitigation of transportation impacts on the business development
132 that would otherwise be applied, notwithstanding this
133 subsection. Any outstanding obligation related to impact fees
134 and fees associated with the mitigation of transportation
135 impacts on the business development runs with the land and is
136 enforceable against any person claiming a fee interest in the
137 land subject to that obligation.

138 (d) This subsection does not apply if it results in a
139 reduction of previously pledged revenue of a county,
140 municipality, or special district for currently outstanding
141 bonds or notes or to a county, municipality, or special district
142 with a mobility fee-based funding system in place on or before
143 January 1, 2014.

144 (e) A developer may, upon notification to the county,
145 municipality, or special district, elect to have impact fees and
146 fees associated with the mitigation of transportation impacts
147 imposed on a business development.

148 (f) This subsection expires July 1, 2018.

149 Section 3. Subsections (5) and (6) are added to section
150 288.005, Florida Statutes, to read:

151 288.005 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

152 (5) "Loan administrator" means a statutorily eligible
153 recipient of state funds that is authorized by the department to
154 make loans under a loan program.

155 (6) "Loan program" means a program established by the

156 Legislature and administered by the department to provide
157 appropriated funds to an eligible entity to further a specific
158 state purpose for a limited period with a promise that such
159 appropriated funds will be repaid to the state. Funds may be
160 awarded directly by the department to an eligible recipient or
161 awarded by the department to a loan administrator. The term
162 includes a "loan fund" or "loan pilot program" administered by
163 the department under this chapter.

164 Section 4. Section 288.006, Florida Statutes, is created
165 to read:

166 288.006 General operation of loan programs.—

167 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature that this section
168 promote the goals of accountability and proper stewardship by
169 recipients of loan program funds. This section applies to all
170 loan programs established under this chapter and administered by
171 the department.

172 (2) State funds appropriated for a loan program may only
173 be used by an eligible recipient or loan administrator, and the
174 use of such funds is restricted to the specific state purpose of
175 the loan program, subject to any compensation due to a recipient
176 or loan administrator as provided under this chapter.

177 (3) Upon termination of a loan program by the Legislature
178 or termination of a contract between the department and an
179 eligible recipient or loan administrator, any remaining
180 appropriated funds shall revert to the fund from which the
181 appropriation was made. The department shall become the

182 successor entity for any outstanding loans and shall pay the
183 former loan administrator for any allowable administrative
184 expenses due to the loan administrator as provided under this
185 chapter. The former loan administrator or successor entity to
186 which this subsection applies shall execute all appropriate
187 instruments to reconcile any remaining accounts associated with
188 a terminated loan program or contract.

189 (4) A loan administrator must avoid any potential conflict
190 of interest regarding the use of appropriated funds for a loan
191 program. A loan administrator or a board member, employee, or
192 agent of a loan administrator may not have a financial interest
193 in an entity that is awarded a loan under a loan program. A loan
194 may not be made to a person or entity if a conflict of interest
195 exists between the parties involved unless the loan
196 administrator provides the department with full disclosure of
197 the conflict of interest and the department approves the loan.

198 (5) In determining eligibility for an entity applying for
199 the award of funds directly by the department or applying for
200 selection as a loan administrator for a loan program, the
201 department shall evaluate each applicant's business practices,
202 financial stability, and past performance in other state
203 programs. Eligibility of an entity applying to be a loan
204 recipient or loan administrator may be conditionally granted or
205 denied outright if the department determines that the entity is
206 noncompliant with any law, rule, or program requirement.

207 (6) An eligible recipient or loan administrator may not

208 employ the same certified public accounting firm licensed under
209 chapter 473 to conduct a financial audit required by this
210 chapter for more than 3 consecutive years.

211 (7) Revolving loans or new negotiable instruments
212 involving appropriated state funds that have been repaid to the
213 loan administrator may be made if the loan program's statutory
214 structure permits. However, all revolving loans or new
215 negotiable instruments made by a loan administrator remain
216 subject to subsection (2), and compensation to a loan
217 administrator may not exceed any limitation provided by this
218 chapter.

219 Section 5. Section 290.0411, Florida Statutes, is amended
220 to read:

221 290.0411 Legislative intent and purpose of ss. 290.0401-
222 290.048.—It is the intent of the Legislature to provide the
223 necessary means to develop, preserve, redevelop, and revitalize
224 Florida communities exhibiting signs of decline, ~~or~~ distress, or
225 economic need by enabling local governments to undertake the
226 necessary community and economic development programs. The
227 overall objective is to create viable communities by eliminating
228 slum and blight, fortifying communities in urgent need,
229 providing decent housing and suitable living environments, and
230 expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low
231 or moderate income. The purpose of ss. 290.0401-290.048 is to
232 assist local governments in carrying out effective community and
233 economic development and project planning and design activities

234 to arrest and reverse community decline and restore community
 235 vitality. Community and economic development and project
 236 planning activities to maintain viable communities, revitalize
 237 existing communities, expand economic development and employment
 238 opportunities, and improve housing conditions and expand housing
 239 opportunities, providing direct benefit to persons of low or
 240 moderate income, are the primary purposes of ss. 290.0401-
 241 290.048. The Legislature, therefore, declares that the
 242 development, redevelopment, preservation, and revitalization of
 243 communities in this state and all the purposes of ss. 290.0401-
 244 290.048 are public purposes for which public money may be
 245 borrowed, expended, loaned, pledged to guarantee loans, and
 246 granted.

247 Section 6. Section 290.044, Florida Statutes, is amended
 248 to read:

249 290.044 Florida Small Cities Community Development Block
 250 Grant Program Fund; administration; distribution.—

251 (1) The Florida Small Cities Community Development Block
 252 Grant Program Fund is created. All revenue designated for
 253 deposit in such fund shall be deposited by the appropriate
 254 agency. The department shall administer this fund as a grant and
 255 loan guarantee program for carrying out the purposes of ss.
 256 290.0401-290.048.

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

260 (3) The department shall require applicants for grants to
 261 compete against each other in the following grant program
 262 categories:

- 263 (a) Housing rehabilitation.
- 264 (b) Economic development.
- 265 (c) Neighborhood revitalization.
- 266 (d) Commercial revitalization.

267 (4)~~(3)~~ The department shall define ~~the~~ broad community
 268 development objectives ~~objective~~ to be achieved by the
 269 activities in each of the ~~following~~ grant program categories
 270 with the use of funds from the Florida Small Cities Community
 271 Development Block Program Fund. Such objectives shall be
 272 designed to meet at least one of the national objectives
 273 provided in the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974,
 274 ~~and require applicants for grants to compete against each other~~
 275 ~~in these grant program categories:~~

- 276 ~~(a) Housing.~~
- 277 ~~(b) Economic development.~~
- 278 ~~(c) Neighborhood revitalization.~~
- 279 ~~(d) Commercial revitalization.~~
- 280 ~~(e) Project planning and design.~~

281 (5)~~(4)~~ The department may set aside an amount of up to 5
 282 percent of the funds annually for use in any eligible local
 283 government jurisdiction for which an emergency or natural
 284 disaster has been declared by executive order. Such funds may
 285 only be provided to a local government to fund eligible

286 emergency-related activities for which no other source of
287 federal, state, or local disaster funds is available. The
288 department may provide for such set-aside by rule. In the last
289 quarter of the state fiscal year, any funds not allocated under
290 the emergency-related set-aside shall be distributed to unfunded
291 applications from the most recent funding cycle.

292 (6)~~(5)~~ The department shall establish a system of
293 monitoring grants, including site visits, to ensure the proper
294 expenditure of funds and compliance with the conditions of the
295 recipient's contract. The department shall establish criteria
296 for implementation of internal control, to include, but not be
297 limited to, the following measures:

298 (a) Ensuring that subrecipient audits performed by a
299 certified public accountant are received and responded to in a
300 timely manner.

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

303 (c) Providing specific justification for contract
304 amendments that takes into account any change in contracted
305 activities and the resultant cost adjustments which shall be
306 reflected in the amount of the grant.

307 Section 7. Section 290.046, Florida Statutes, is amended
308 to read:

309 290.046 Applications for grants; procedures;
310 requirements.—

311 (1) In applying for a grant under a specific program

312 category, an applicant shall propose eligible activities that
313 directly address the objectives ~~objective~~ of that program
314 category.

315 (2) (a) Not including applications for economic development
316 grants ~~Except as provided in paragraph (c),~~ each eligible local
317 government may submit one ~~an~~ application for a grant ~~under~~
318 ~~either the housing program category or the neighborhood~~
319 ~~revitalization program category~~ during each application ~~annual~~
320 ~~funding cycle. An applicant may not receive more than one grant~~
321 ~~in any state fiscal year from any of the following categories:~~
322 ~~housing, neighborhood revitalization, or commercial~~
323 ~~revitalization.~~

324 (b) 1. ~~An~~ ~~Except as provided in paragraph (c),~~ each
325 eligible local government may apply up to three times in any one
326 annual funding cycle for an economic development ~~a grant under~~
327 ~~the economic development program category~~ but shall receive no
328 more than one such grant per annual funding cycle. A local
329 government may have more than one open economic development
330 grant. ~~Applications for grants under the economic development~~
331 ~~program category may be submitted at any time during the annual~~
332 ~~funding cycle, and such grants shall be awarded no less~~
333 ~~frequently than three times per funding cycle.~~

334 2. The department shall establish minimum criteria
335 pertaining to the number of jobs created for persons of low or
336 moderate income, the degree of private-sector ~~private sector~~
337 financial commitment, and the economic feasibility of the

338 proposed project and shall establish any other criteria the
339 department deems appropriate. Assistance to a private, for-
340 profit business may not be provided from a grant award unless
341 sufficient evidence exists to demonstrate that without such
342 public assistance the creation or retention of such jobs would
343 not occur.

344 (c)1. A local government ~~governments~~ with an open housing
345 rehabilitation, neighborhood revitalization, or commercial
346 revitalization contract shall not be eligible to apply for
347 another housing rehabilitation, neighborhood revitalization, or
348 commercial revitalization grant until administrative closeout of
349 its ~~their~~ existing contract. The department shall notify a local
350 government of administrative closeout or of any outstanding
351 closeout issues within 45 days after ~~of~~ receipt of a closeout
352 package from the local government. A local government
353 ~~governments~~ with an open housing rehabilitation, neighborhood
354 revitalization, or commercial revitalization community
355 development block grant contract whose activities are on
356 schedule in accordance with the expenditure rates and
357 accomplishments described in the contract may apply for an
358 economic development grant.

359 2. A local government ~~governments~~ with an open economic
360 development community development block grant contract whose
361 activities are on schedule in accordance with the expenditure
362 rates and accomplishments described in the contract may apply
363 for a housing rehabilitation, ~~or~~ neighborhood revitalization, or

364 ~~and a~~ commercial revitalization community development block
365 grant. A local government ~~governments~~ with an open economic
366 development contract whose activities are on schedule in
367 accordance with the expenditure rates and accomplishments
368 described in the contract may receive no more than one
369 additional economic development grant in each fiscal year.

370 (d) ~~Beginning October 1, 1988,~~ The department may not
371 shall award a ~~no~~ grant until it ~~the department~~ has conducted
372 determined, based upon a site visit to verify the information
373 contained in the local government's application, ~~that the~~
374 ~~proposed area matches and adheres to the written description~~
375 ~~contained within the applicant's request. If, based upon review~~
376 ~~of the application or a site visit, the department determines~~
377 ~~that any information provided in the application which affects~~
378 ~~eligibility or scoring has been misrepresented, the applicant's~~
379 ~~request shall be rejected by the department pursuant to s.~~
380 ~~290.0475(7). Mathematical errors in applications which may be~~
381 ~~discovered and corrected by readily computing available numbers~~
382 ~~or formulas provided in the application shall not be a basis for~~
383 ~~such rejection.~~

384 (3) (a) The department shall rank each application received
385 during the application cycle according to criteria established
386 by rule. The ranking system shall include a procedure to
387 eliminate or reduce any population-related bias that places
388 exceptionally small communities at a disadvantage in the
389 competition for funds. ~~Each application shall be ranked~~

390 ~~competitively based on community need and program impact.~~
391 ~~Community need shall be weighted 25 percent. Program impact~~
392 ~~shall be weighted 65 percent. Outstanding performance in equal~~
393 ~~opportunity employment and housing shall be weighted 10 percent.~~

394 (b) Funds shall be distributed according to the rankings
395 established in each application cycle. If economic development
396 funds remain available after the application cycle closes, the
397 remaining funds shall be awarded to eligible projects on a
398 first-come, first-served basis until such funds are fully
399 obligated. ~~The criteria used to measure community need shall~~
400 ~~include, at a minimum, indicators of the extent of poverty in~~
401 ~~the community and the condition of physical structures. Each~~
402 ~~application, regardless of the program category for which it is~~
403 ~~being submitted, shall be scored competitively on the same~~
404 ~~community need criteria. In recognition of the benefits~~
405 ~~resulting from the receipt of grant funds, the department shall~~
406 ~~provide for the reduction of community need scores for specified~~
407 ~~increments of grant funds provided to a local government since~~
408 ~~the state began using the most recent census data. In the year~~
409 ~~in which new census data are first used, no such reduction shall~~
410 ~~occur.~~

411 (c) The application's program impact score, equal
412 employment opportunity and fair housing score, and communitywide
413 needs score may take into consideration scoring factors
414 including, but not limited to, unemployment, poverty levels,
415 low-income and moderate-income populations, benefits to low-

416 income and moderate-income residents, use of minority-owned and
417 woman-owned business enterprises in previous grants, health and
418 safety issues, and the condition of physical structures. The
419 ~~criteria used to measure the impact of an applicant's proposed~~
420 ~~activities shall include, at a minimum, indicators of the direct~~
421 ~~benefit received by persons of low income and persons of~~
422 ~~moderate income, the extent to which the problem identified is~~
423 ~~addressed by the proposed activities, and the extent to which~~
424 ~~resources other than the funds being applied for under this~~
425 ~~program are being used to carry out the proposed activities.~~

426 ~~(d) Applications shall be scored competitively on program~~
427 ~~impact criteria that are uniquely tailored to the community~~
428 ~~development objective established in each program category. The~~
429 ~~criteria used to measure the direct benefit to persons of low~~
430 ~~income and persons of moderate income shall represent no less~~
431 ~~than 42 percent of the points assigned to the program impact~~
432 ~~factor. For the housing and neighborhood revitalization~~
433 ~~categories, the department shall also include the following~~
434 ~~criteria in the scoring of applications:~~

435 ~~1. The proportion of very low income and low income~~
436 ~~households served.~~

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

439 ~~(4) An applicant for a neighborhood revitalization or~~
440 ~~commercial revitalization grant shall demonstrate that its~~
441 ~~activities are to be carried out in distinct service areas which~~

442 ~~are characterized by the existence of slums or blighted~~
443 ~~conditions, or by the concentration of persons of low or~~
444 ~~moderate income.~~

445 (4)~~(5)~~ In order to provide citizens with information
446 concerning an applicant's proposed project, the applicant shall
447 make available to the public information concerning the amounts
448 of funds available for various activities and the range of
449 activities that may be undertaken. In addition, the applicant
450 shall hold a minimum of two public hearings in the local
451 jurisdiction within which the project is to be implemented to
452 obtain the views of citizens before submitting the final
453 application to the department. The applicant shall conduct the
454 initial hearing to solicit public input concerning community
455 needs, inform the public about funding opportunities available
456 to address community needs, and discuss activities that may be
457 undertaken. Before a second public hearing is held, the
458 applicant must publish a summary of the proposed application
459 that provides citizens with an opportunity to examine its
460 contents and submit their comments. The applicant shall conduct
461 a second hearing to obtain comments from citizens concerning the
462 proposed application and to modify the proposed application if
463 appropriate ~~program before an application is submitted to the~~
464 ~~department, the applicant shall:~~

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

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

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

473 ~~(d) Consider any comments and views expressed by citizens~~
474 ~~on the proposed application and, if appropriate, modify the~~
475 ~~proposed application.~~

476 ~~(e) Hold at least one public hearing in the jurisdiction~~
477 ~~within which the project is to be implemented to obtain the~~
478 ~~views of citizens on the final application prior to its~~
479 ~~submission to the department.~~

480 (5)~~(6)~~ The local government may ~~shall~~ establish a citizen
481 advisory task force composed of citizens in the jurisdiction in
482 which the proposed project is to be implemented to provide input
483 relative to all phases of the project process. ~~The local~~
484 ~~government must obtain consent from the department for any other~~
485 ~~type of citizen participation plan upon a showing that such plan~~
486 ~~is better suited to secure citizen participation for that~~
487 ~~locality.~~

488 (6)~~(7)~~ The department shall, before ~~prior to~~ approving an
489 application for a grant, determine that the applicant has the
490 administrative capacity to carry out the proposed activities and
491 has performed satisfactorily in carrying out past activities
492 funded by community development block grants. The evaluation of
493 past performance shall take into account procedural aspects of

494 previous grants as well as substantive results. If the
495 department determines that any applicant has failed to
496 accomplish substantially the results it proposed in its last
497 previously funded application, it may prohibit the applicant
498 from receiving a grant or may penalize the applicant in the
499 rating of the current application. An ~~No~~ application for grant
500 funds may not be denied solely upon the basis of the past
501 performance of the eligible applicant.

502 Section 8. Subsections (3) and (6) of section 290.047,
503 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

504 290.047 Establishment of grant ceilings and maximum
505 administrative cost percentages; elimination of population bias;
506 loans in default.—

507 (3) The maximum percentage of block grant funds that can
508 be spent on administrative costs by an eligible local government
509 shall be 15 percent for the housing rehabilitation program
510 category, 8 percent for both the neighborhood and the commercial
511 revitalization program categories, and 8 percent for the
512 economic development program category. The maximum amount of
513 block grant funds that may be spent on administrative costs by
514 an eligible local government for the economic development
515 program category is \$120,000. The purpose of the ceiling is to
516 maximize the amount of block grant funds actually going toward
517 the redevelopment of the area. The department will continue to
518 encourage eligible local governments to consider ways to limit
519 the amount of block grant funds used for administrative costs,

520 consistent with the need for prudent management and
 521 accountability in the use of public funds. However, this
 522 subsection does ~~shall not be construed, however,~~ to prohibit
 523 eligible local governments from contributing their own funds or
 524 making in-kind contributions to cover administrative costs which
 525 exceed the prescribed ceilings, provided that all such
 526 contributions come from local government resources other than
 527 Community Development Block Grant funds.

528 (6) The maximum amount ~~percentage~~ of block grant funds
 529 that may be spent on engineering and architectural costs by an
 530 eligible local government shall be determined in accordance with
 531 a method ~~schedule~~ adopted by the department by rule. Any such
 532 method ~~schedule~~ so adopted shall be consistent with the schedule
 533 used by the United States Farmer's Home Administration as
 534 applied to projects in Florida or another comparable schedule as
 535 amended.

536 Section 9. Section 290.0475, Florida Statutes, is amended
 537 to read:

538 290.0475 Rejection of grant applications; penalties for
 539 failure to meet application conditions.—Applications are
 540 ineligible ~~received~~ for funding if ~~under all program categories~~
 541 ~~shall be rejected without scoring only in the event that~~ any of
 542 the following circumstances arise:

543 (1) The application is not received by the department by
 544 the application deadline;—

545 (2) The proposed project does not meet one of the three

546 national objectives as contained in federal and state
 547 legislation;~~;~~

548 (3) The proposed project is not an eligible activity as
 549 contained in the federal legislation;~~;~~

550 (4) The application is not consistent with the local
 551 government's comprehensive plan adopted pursuant to s.
 552 163.3184;~~;~~

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

556 (6) The local government is not in compliance with the
 557 citizen participation requirements prescribed in ss. 104(a)(1)
 558 and (2) and 106(d)(5)(c) of Title I of the Housing and Community
 559 Development Act of 1984, s. 290.046(4), and department rules;
 560 or

561 (7) Any information provided in the application that
 562 affects eligibility or scoring is found to have been
 563 misrepresented, and the information is not a mathematical error
 564 which may be discovered and corrected by readily computing
 565 available numbers or formulas provided in the application.

566 Section 10. Subsection (5) of section 290.048, Florida
 567 Statutes, is amended to read:

568 290.048 General powers of department under ss. 290.0401-
 569 290.048.—The department has all the powers necessary or
 570 appropriate to carry out the purposes and provisions of the
 571 program, including the power to:

572 ~~(5) Adopt and enforce strict requirements concerning an~~
573 ~~applicant's written description of a service area. Each such~~
574 ~~description shall contain maps which illustrate the location of~~
575 ~~the proposed service area. All such maps must be clearly legible~~
576 ~~and must:~~

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

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

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

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

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

584 Section 11. Subsection (5) and paragraph (b) of subsection
585 (8) of section 331.3051, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

586 331.3051 Duties of Space Florida.—Space Florida shall:

587 (5) Consult with the Florida Tourism Industry Marketing
588 Corporation ~~Enterprise Florida, Inc.~~, in developing a space
589 tourism marketing plan. Space Florida and the Florida Tourism
590 Industry Marketing Corporation ~~Enterprise Florida, Inc.~~, may
591 enter into a mutually beneficial agreement that provides funding
592 to the corporation ~~Enterprise Florida, Inc.~~, for its services to
593 implement this subsection.

594 (8) Carry out its responsibility for research and
595 development by:

596 (b) Working in collaboration with one or more public or
597 private universities and other public or private entities to

598 ~~develop a proposal for a Center of Excellence for Aerospace that~~
599 ~~will foster and~~ promote the research necessary to develop
600 commercially promising, advanced, and innovative science and
601 technology and ~~will~~ transfer those discoveries to the commercial
602 sector.

603 Section 12. Paragraph (f) of subsection (1) of section
604 443.141, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

605 443.141 Collection of contributions and reimbursements.—

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

608 (f) Payments for 2012, 2013, ~~and 2014,~~ and subsequent
609 contributions.—For an annual administrative fee not to exceed
610 \$5, a contributing employer may pay its quarterly contributions
611 due for wages paid in the first three quarters of 2012, 2013,
612 ~~and 2014,~~ and any subsequent year in equal installments if those
613 contributions are paid as follows:

614 1. For contributions due for wages paid in the first
615 quarter of each year, one-fourth of the contributions due must
616 be paid on or before April 30, one-fourth must be paid on or
617 before July 31, one-fourth must be paid on or before October 31,
618 and one-fourth must be paid on or before December 31.

619 2. In addition to the payments specified in subparagraph
620 1., for contributions due for wages paid in the second quarter
621 of each year, one-third of the contributions due must be paid on
622 or before July 31, one-third must be paid on or before October
623 31, and one-third must be paid on or before December 31.

624 3. In addition to the payments specified in subparagraphs
625 1. and 2., for contributions due for wages paid in the third
626 quarter of each year, one-half of the contributions due must be
627 paid on or before October 31, and one-half must be paid on or
628 before December 31.

629 4. The annual administrative fee assessed for electing to
630 pay under the installment method shall be collected at the time
631 the employer makes the first installment payment each year. The
632 fee shall be segregated from the payment and deposited into the
633 Operating Trust Fund of the Department of Revenue.

634 5. Interest does not accrue on any contribution that
635 becomes due for wages paid in the first three quarters of each
636 year if the employer pays the contribution in accordance with
637 subparagraphs 1.-4. Interest and fees continue to accrue on
638 prior delinquent contributions and commence accruing on all
639 contributions due for wages paid in the first three quarters of
640 each year which are not paid in accordance with subparagraphs
641 1.-3. Penalties may be assessed in accordance with this chapter.
642 The contributions due for wages paid in the fourth quarter of
643 2012, 2013, ~~and 2014,~~ and subsequent years are not affected by
644 this paragraph and are due and payable in accordance with this
645 chapter.

646 Section 13. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
647 125.271, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

648 125.271 Emergency medical services; county emergency
649 medical service assessments.—

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

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

654
655 Once a county has qualified under this subsection, it always
656 retains the qualification.

657 Section 14. Paragraphs (a), (b), and (e) of subsection (7)
658 of section 163.3177, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

659 163.3177 Required and optional elements of comprehensive
660 plan; studies and surveys.—

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

662 1. There are a number of rural agricultural industrial
663 centers in the state that process, produce, or aid in the
664 production or distribution of a variety of agriculturally based
665 products, including, but not limited to, fruits, vegetables,
666 timber, and other crops, and juices, paper, and building
667 materials. Rural agricultural industrial centers have a
668 significant amount of existing associated infrastructure that is
669 used for processing, producing, or distributing agricultural
670 products.

671 2. Such rural agricultural industrial centers are often
672 located within or near communities in which the economy is
673 largely dependent upon agriculture and agriculturally based
674 products. The centers significantly enhance the economy of such
675 communities. However, these agriculturally based communities are

676 often socioeconomically challenged and designated as rural areas
677 of opportunity ~~critical economic concern~~. If such rural
678 agricultural industrial centers are lost and not replaced with
679 other job-creating enterprises, the agriculturally based
680 communities will lose a substantial amount of their economies.

681 3. The state has a compelling interest in preserving the
682 viability of agriculture and protecting rural agricultural
683 communities and the state from the economic upheaval that would
684 result from short-term or long-term adverse changes in the
685 agricultural economy. To protect these communities and promote
686 viable agriculture for the long term, it is essential to
687 encourage and permit diversification of existing rural
688 agricultural industrial centers by providing for jobs that are
689 not solely dependent upon, but are compatible with and
690 complement, existing agricultural industrial operations and to
691 encourage the creation and expansion of industries that use
692 agricultural products in innovative ways. However, the expansion
693 and diversification of these existing centers must be
694 accomplished in a manner that does not promote urban sprawl into
695 surrounding agricultural and rural areas.

696 (b) As used in this subsection, the term "rural
697 agricultural industrial center" means a developed parcel of land
698 in an unincorporated area on which there exists an operating
699 agricultural industrial facility or facilities that employ at
700 least 200 full-time employees in the aggregate and process and
701 prepare for transport a farm product, as defined in s. 163.3162,

702 or any biomass material that could be used, directly or
 703 indirectly, for the production of fuel, renewable energy,
 704 bioenergy, or alternative fuel as defined by law. The center may
 705 also include land contiguous to the facility site which is not
 706 used for the cultivation of crops, but on which other existing
 707 activities essential to the operation of such facility or
 708 facilities are located or conducted. The parcel of land must be
 709 located within, or within 10 miles of, a rural area of
 710 opportunity ~~critical economic concern~~.

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

716 Section 15. Subsection (3) of section 163.3187, Florida
 717 Statutes, is amended to read:

718 163.3187 Process for adoption of small-scale comprehensive
 719 plan amendment.—

720 (3) If the small scale development amendment involves a
 721 site within a rural area of opportunity ~~critical economic~~
 722 ~~concern~~ as defined under s. 288.0656(2)(d) for the duration of
 723 such designation, the 10-acre limit listed in subsection (1)
 724 shall be increased by 100 percent to 20 acres. The local
 725 government approving the small scale plan amendment shall
 726 certify to the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic
 727 Development that the plan amendment furthers the economic

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728 objectives set forth in the executive order issued under s.
729 288.0656(7), and the property subject to the plan amendment
730 shall undergo public review to ensure that all concurrency
731 requirements and federal, state, and local environmental permit
732 requirements are met.

733 Section 16. Subsection (10) of section 163.3246, Florida
734 Statutes, is amended to read:

735 163.3246 Local government comprehensive planning
736 certification program.—

737 (10) Notwithstanding subsections (2), (4), (5), (6), and
738 (7), any municipality designated as a rural area of opportunity
739 ~~critical economic concern~~ pursuant to s. 288.0656 which is
740 located within a county eligible to levy the Small County Surtax
741 under s. 212.055(3) shall be considered certified during the
742 effectiveness of the designation of rural area of opportunity
743 ~~critical economic concern~~. The state land planning agency shall
744 provide a written notice of certification to the local
745 government of the certified area, which shall be considered
746 final agency action subject to challenge under s. 120.569. The
747 notice of certification shall include the following components:

748 (a) The boundary of the certification area.

749 (b) A requirement that the local government submit either
750 an annual or biennial monitoring report to the state land
751 planning agency according to the schedule provided in the
752 written notice. The monitoring report shall, at a minimum,
753 include the number of amendments to the comprehensive plan

754 adopted by the local government, the number of plan amendments
 755 challenged by an affected person, and the disposition of those
 756 challenges.

757 Section 17. Paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of section
 758 211.3103, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

759 211.3103 Levy of tax on severance of phosphate rock; rate,
 760 basis, and distribution of tax.—

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

766 1. To the credit of the Conservation and Recreation Lands
 767 Trust Fund, 25.5 percent.

768 2. To the credit of the General Revenue Fund of the state,
 769 35.7 percent.

770 3. For payment to counties in proportion to the number of
 771 tons of phosphate rock produced from a phosphate rock matrix
 772 located within such political boundary, 12.8 percent. The
 773 department shall distribute this portion of the proceeds
 774 annually based on production information reported by the
 775 producers on the annual returns for the taxable year. Any such
 776 proceeds received by a county shall be used only for phosphate-
 777 related expenses.

778 4. For payment to counties that have been designated as a
 779 rural area of opportunity ~~critical economic concern~~ pursuant to

780 s. 288.0656 in proportion to the number of tons of phosphate
 781 rock produced from a phosphate rock matrix located within such
 782 political boundary, 10.0 percent. The department shall
 783 distribute this portion of the proceeds annually based on
 784 production information reported by the producers on the annual
 785 returns for the taxable year. Payments under this subparagraph
 786 shall be made to the counties unless the Legislature by special
 787 act creates a local authority to promote and direct the economic
 788 development of the county. If such authority exists, payments
 789 shall be made to that authority.

790 5. To the credit of the Nonmandatory Land Reclamation
 791 Trust Fund, 6.2 percent.

792 6. To the credit of the Phosphate Research Trust Fund in
 793 the Division of Universities of the Department of Education, 6.2
 794 percent.

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

796 Section 18. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section
 797 212.098, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

798 212.098 Rural Job Tax Credit Program.—

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

800 (c) "Qualified area" means any area that is contained
 801 within a rural area of opportunity ~~critical economic concern~~
 802 designated under s. 288.0656, a county that has a population of
 803 fewer than 75,000 persons, or a county that has a population of
 804 125,000 or less and is contiguous to a county that has a
 805 population of less than 75,000, selected in the following

806 manner: every third year, the Department of Economic Opportunity
 807 shall rank and tier the state's counties according to the
 808 following four factors:

809 1. Highest unemployment rate for the most recent 36-month
 810 period.

811 2. Lowest per capita income for the most recent 36-month
 812 period.

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

815 4. Average weekly manufacturing wage, based upon the most
 816 recent data available.

817 Section 19. Subsection (1) of section 218.67, Florida
 818 Statutes, is amended to read:

819 218.67 Distribution for fiscally constrained counties.—

820 (1) Each county that is entirely within a rural area of
 821 opportunity ~~critical economic concern~~ as designated by the
 822 Governor pursuant to s. 288.0656 or each county for which the
 823 value of a mill will raise no more than \$5 million in revenue,
 824 based on the taxable value certified pursuant to s.
 825 1011.62(4)(a)1.a., from the previous July 1, shall be considered
 826 a fiscally constrained county.

827 Section 20. Subsection (1) of section 288.018, Florida
 828 Statutes, is amended to read:

829 288.018 Regional Rural Development Grants Program.—

830 (1) The department shall establish a matching grant
 831 program to provide funding to regionally based economic

832 development organizations representing rural counties and
 833 communities for the purpose of building the professional
 834 capacity of their organizations. Such matching grants may also
 835 be used by an economic development organization to provide
 836 technical assistance to businesses within the rural counties and
 837 communities that it serves. The department is authorized to
 838 approve, on an annual basis, grants to such regionally based
 839 economic development organizations. The maximum amount an
 840 organization may receive in any year will be \$35,000, or
 841 \$100,000 in a rural area of opportunity ~~critical economic~~
 842 ~~concern~~ recommended by the Rural Economic Development Initiative
 843 and designated by the Governor, and must be matched each year by
 844 an equivalent amount of nonstate resources.

845 Section 21. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (2) of
 846 section 288.065, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

847 288.065 Rural Community Development Revolving Loan Fund.—

848 (2) (a) The program shall provide for long-term loans, loan
 849 guarantees, and loan loss reserves to units of local
 850 governments, or economic development organizations substantially
 851 underwritten by a unit of local government, within counties with
 852 populations of 75,000 or fewer, or within any county with a
 853 population of 125,000 or fewer which is contiguous to a county
 854 with a population of 75,000 or fewer, based on the most recent
 855 official population estimate as determined under s. 186.901,
 856 including those residing in incorporated areas and those
 857 residing in unincorporated areas of the county, or to units of

858 local government, or economic development organizations
859 substantially underwritten by a unit of local government, within
860 a rural area of opportunity ~~critical economic concern~~.

861 (c) All repayments of principal and interest shall be
862 returned to the loan fund and made available for loans to other
863 applicants. However, in a rural area of opportunity ~~critical~~
864 ~~economic concern~~ designated by the Governor, and upon approval
865 by the department, repayments of principal and interest may be
866 retained by the applicant if such repayments are dedicated and
867 matched to fund regionally based economic development
868 organizations representing the rural area of opportunity
869 ~~critical economic concern~~.

870 Section 22. Paragraphs (b), (c), and (e) of subsection (2)
871 of section 288.0655, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

872 288.0655 Rural Infrastructure Fund.—

873 (2)

874 (b) To facilitate access of rural communities and rural
875 areas of opportunity ~~critical economic concern~~ as defined by the
876 Rural Economic Development Initiative to infrastructure funding
877 programs of the Federal Government, such as those offered by the
878 United States Department of Agriculture and the United States
879 Department of Commerce, and state programs, including those
880 offered by Rural Economic Development Initiative agencies, and
881 to facilitate local government or private infrastructure funding
882 efforts, the department may award grants for up to 30 percent of
883 the total infrastructure project cost. If an application for

884 funding is for a catalyst site, as defined in s. 288.0656, the
885 department may award grants for up to 40 percent of the total
886 infrastructure project cost. Eligible projects must be related
887 to specific job-creation or job-retention opportunities.
888 Eligible projects may also include improving any inadequate
889 infrastructure that has resulted in regulatory action that
890 prohibits economic or community growth or reducing the costs to
891 community users of proposed infrastructure improvements that
892 exceed such costs in comparable communities. Eligible uses of
893 funds shall include improvements to public infrastructure for
894 industrial or commercial sites and upgrades to or development of
895 public tourism infrastructure. Authorized infrastructure may
896 include the following public or public-private partnership
897 facilities: storm water systems; telecommunications facilities;
898 broadband facilities; roads or other remedies to transportation
899 impediments; nature-based tourism facilities; or other physical
900 requirements necessary to facilitate tourism, trade, and
901 economic development activities in the community. Authorized
902 infrastructure may also include publicly or privately owned
903 self-powered nature-based tourism facilities, publicly owned
904 telecommunications facilities, and broadband facilities, and
905 additions to the distribution facilities of the existing natural
906 gas utility as defined in s. 366.04(3)(c), the existing electric
907 utility as defined in s. 366.02, or the existing water or
908 wastewater utility as defined in s. 367.021(12), or any other
909 existing water or wastewater facility, which owns a gas or

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910 electric distribution system or a water or wastewater system in
911 this state where:

912 1. A contribution-in-aid of construction is required to
913 serve public or public-private partnership facilities under the
914 tariffs of any natural gas, electric, water, or wastewater
915 utility as defined herein; and

916 2. Such utilities as defined herein are willing and able
917 to provide such service.

918 (c) To facilitate timely response and induce the location
919 or expansion of specific job creating opportunities, the
920 department may award grants for infrastructure feasibility
921 studies, design and engineering activities, or other
922 infrastructure planning and preparation activities. Authorized
923 grants shall be up to \$50,000 for an employment project with a
924 business committed to create at least 100 jobs; up to \$150,000
925 for an employment project with a business committed to create at
926 least 300 jobs; and up to \$300,000 for a project in a rural area
927 of opportunity ~~critical economic concern~~. Grants awarded under
928 this paragraph may be used in conjunction with grants awarded
929 under paragraph (b), provided that the total amount of both
930 grants does not exceed 30 percent of the total project cost. In
931 evaluating applications under this paragraph, the department
932 shall consider the extent to which the application seeks to
933 minimize administrative and consultant expenses.

934 (e) To enable local governments to access the resources
935 available pursuant to s. 403.973(18), the department may award

936 grants for surveys, feasibility studies, and other activities
 937 related to the identification and preclearance review of land
 938 which is suitable for preclearance review. Authorized grants
 939 under this paragraph shall not exceed \$75,000 each, except in
 940 the case of a project in a rural area of opportunity ~~critical~~
 941 ~~economic concern~~, in which case the grant shall not exceed
 942 \$300,000. Any funds awarded under this paragraph must be matched
 943 at a level of 50 percent with local funds, except that any funds
 944 awarded for a project in a rural area of opportunity ~~critical~~
 945 ~~economic concern~~ must be matched at a level of 33 percent with
 946 local funds. If an application for funding is for a catalyst
 947 site, as defined in s. 288.0656, the requirement for local match
 948 may be waived pursuant to the process in s. 288.06561. In
 949 evaluating applications under this paragraph, the department
 950 shall consider the extent to which the application seeks to
 951 minimize administrative and consultant expenses.

952 Section 23. Paragraphs (a), (b), and (d) of subsection (2)
 953 and subsection (7) of section 288.0656, Florida Statutes, are
 954 amended to read:

955 288.0656 Rural Economic Development Initiative.—

956 (2) As used in this section, the term:

957 (a) "Catalyst project" means a business locating or
 958 expanding in a rural area of opportunity ~~critical economic~~
 959 ~~concern~~ to serve as an economic generator of regional
 960 significance for the growth of a regional target industry
 961 cluster. The project must provide capital investment on a scale

962 significant enough to affect the entire region and result in the
 963 development of high-wage and high-skill jobs.

964 (b) "Catalyst site" means a parcel or parcels of land
 965 within a rural area of opportunity ~~critical economic concern~~
 966 that has been prioritized as a geographic site for economic
 967 development through partnerships with state, regional, and local
 968 organizations. The site must be reviewed by REDI and approved by
 969 the department for the purposes of locating a catalyst project.

970 (d) "Rural area of opportunity ~~critical economic concern~~"
 971 means a rural community, or a region composed of rural
 972 communities, designated by the Governor, that has been adversely
 973 affected by an extraordinary economic event, severe or chronic
 974 distress, or a natural disaster or that presents a unique
 975 economic development opportunity of regional impact.

976 (7) (a) REDI may recommend to the Governor up to three
 977 rural areas of opportunity ~~critical economic concern~~. The
 978 Governor may by executive order designate up to three rural
 979 areas of opportunity ~~critical economic concern~~ which will
 980 establish these areas as priority assignments for REDI as well
 981 as to allow the Governor, acting through REDI, to waive
 982 criteria, requirements, or similar provisions of any economic
 983 development incentive. Such incentives shall include, but not be
 984 limited to, ~~the~~ the Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund Program
 985 under s. 288.106, the Quick Response Training Program under s.
 986 288.047, the Quick Response Training Program for participants in
 987 the welfare transition program under s. 288.047(8),

988 transportation projects under s. 339.2821, the brownfield
989 redevelopment bonus refund under s. 288.107, and the rural job
990 tax credit program under ss. 212.098 and 220.1895.

991 (b) Designation as a rural area of opportunity ~~critical~~
992 ~~economic concern~~ under this subsection shall be contingent upon
993 the execution of a memorandum of agreement among the department;
994 the governing body of the county; and the governing bodies of
995 any municipalities to be included within a rural area of
996 opportunity ~~critical economic concern~~. Such agreement shall
997 specify the terms and conditions of the designation, including,
998 but not limited to, the duties and responsibilities of the
999 county and any participating municipalities to take actions
1000 designed to facilitate the retention and expansion of existing
1001 businesses in the area, as well as the recruitment of new
1002 businesses to the area.

1003 (c) Each rural area of opportunity ~~critical economic~~
1004 ~~concern~~ may designate catalyst projects, provided that each
1005 catalyst project is specifically recommended by REDI, identified
1006 as a catalyst project by Enterprise Florida, Inc., and confirmed
1007 as a catalyst project by the department. All state agencies and
1008 departments shall use all available tools and resources to the
1009 extent permissible by law to promote the creation and
1010 development of each catalyst project and the development of
1011 catalyst sites.

1012 Section 24. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section
1013 288.1088, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1014 288.1088 Quick Action Closing Fund.—

1015 (3) (a) The department and Enterprise Florida, Inc., shall
 1016 jointly review applications pursuant to s. 288.061 and determine
 1017 the eligibility of each project consistent with the criteria in
 1018 subsection (2). Waiver of these criteria may be considered under
 1019 the following criteria:

- 1020 1. Based on extraordinary circumstances;
- 1021 2. In order to mitigate the impact of the conclusion of
 1022 the space shuttle program; or
- 1023 3. In rural areas of opportunity ~~critical economic concern~~
 1024 if the project would significantly benefit the local or regional
 1025 economy.

1026 Section 25. Paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of subsection (4)
 1027 of section 288.1089, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1028 288.1089 Innovation Incentive Program.—

1029 (4) To qualify for review by the department, the applicant
 1030 must, at a minimum, establish the following to the satisfaction
 1031 of the department:

- 1032 (b) A research and development project must:
 - 1033 1. Serve as a catalyst for an emerging or evolving
 1034 technology cluster.
 - 1035 2. Demonstrate a plan for significant higher education
 1036 collaboration.
 - 1037 3. Provide the state, at a minimum, a cumulative break-
 1038 even economic benefit within a 20-year period.
 - 1039 4. Be provided with a one-to-one match from the local

1040 community. The match requirement may be reduced or waived in
 1041 rural areas of opportunity ~~critical economic concern~~ or reduced
 1042 in rural areas, brownfield areas, and enterprise zones.

1043 (c) An innovation business project in this state, other
 1044 than a research and development project, must:

1045 1.a. Result in the creation of at least 1,000 direct, new
 1046 jobs at the business; or

1047 b. Result in the creation of at least 500 direct, new jobs
 1048 if the project is located in a rural area, a brownfield area, or
 1049 an enterprise zone.

1050 2. Have an activity or product that is within an industry
 1051 that is designated as a target industry business under s.
 1052 288.106 or a designated sector under s. 288.108.

1053 3.a. Have a cumulative investment of at least \$500 million
 1054 within a 5-year period; or

1055 b. Have a cumulative investment that exceeds \$250 million
 1056 within a 10-year period if the project is located in a rural
 1057 area, brownfield area, or an enterprise zone.

1058 4. Be provided with a one-to-one match from the local
 1059 community. The match requirement may be reduced or waived in
 1060 rural areas of opportunity ~~critical economic concern~~ or reduced
 1061 in rural areas, brownfield areas, and enterprise zones.

1062 (d) For an alternative and renewable energy project in
 1063 this state, the project must:

1064 1. Demonstrate a plan for significant collaboration with
 1065 an institution of higher education;

1066 2. Provide the state, at a minimum, a cumulative break-
 1067 even economic benefit within a 20-year period;

1068 3. Include matching funds provided by the applicant or
 1069 other available sources. The match requirement may be reduced or
 1070 waived in rural areas of opportunity ~~critical economic concern~~
 1071 or reduced in rural areas, brownfield areas, and enterprise
 1072 zones;

1073 4. Be located in this state; and

1074 5. Provide at least 35 direct, new jobs that pay an
 1075 estimated annual average wage that equals at least 130 percent
 1076 of the average private sector wage.

1077 Section 26. Paragraph (d) of subsection (6) of section
 1078 290.0055, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1079 290.0055 Local nominating procedure.—

1080 (6)

1081 (d)1. The governing body of a jurisdiction which has
 1082 nominated an application for an enterprise zone that is at least
 1083 15 square miles and less than 20 square miles and includes a
 1084 portion of the state designated as a rural area of opportunity
 1085 ~~critical economic concern~~ under s. 288.0656(7) may apply to the
 1086 department to expand the boundary of the existing enterprise
 1087 zone by not more than 3 square miles.

1088 2. The governing body of a jurisdiction which has
 1089 nominated an application for an enterprise zone that is at least
 1090 20 square miles and includes a portion of the state designated
 1091 as a rural area of opportunity ~~critical economic concern~~ under

1092 s. 288.0656(7) may apply to the department to expand the
 1093 boundary of the existing enterprise zone by not more than 5
 1094 square miles.

1095 3. An application to expand the boundary of an enterprise
 1096 zone under this paragraph must be submitted by December 31,
 1097 2013.

1098 4. Notwithstanding the area limitations specified in
 1099 subsection (4), the department may approve the request for a
 1100 boundary amendment if the area continues to satisfy the
 1101 remaining requirements of this section.

1102 5. The department shall establish the initial effective
 1103 date of an enterprise zone designated under this paragraph.

1104 Section 27. Paragraph (c) of subsection (4) of section
 1105 339.2819, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1106 339.2819 Transportation Regional Incentive Program.—

1107 (4)

1108 (c) The department shall give priority to projects that:

1109 1. Provide connectivity to the Strategic Intermodal System
 1110 developed under s. 339.64.

1111 2. Support economic development and the movement of goods
 1112 in rural areas of opportunity ~~critical economic concern~~
 1113 designated under s. 288.0656(7).

1114 3. Are subject to a local ordinance that establishes
 1115 corridor management techniques, including access management
 1116 strategies, right-of-way acquisition and protection measures,
 1117 appropriate land use strategies, zoning, and setback

1118 requirements for adjacent land uses.

1119 4. Improve connectivity between military installations and
 1120 the Strategic Highway Network or the Strategic Rail Corridor
 1121 Network.

1122
 1123 The department shall also consider the extent to which local
 1124 matching funds are available to be committed to the project.

1125 Section 28. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section
 1126 339.63, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1127 339.63 System facilities designated; additions and
 1128 deletions.—

1129 (5)

1130 (b) A facility designated part of the Strategic Intermodal
 1131 System pursuant to paragraph (a) that is within the jurisdiction
 1132 of a local government that maintains a transportation
 1133 concurrency system shall receive a waiver of transportation
 1134 concurrency requirements applicable to Strategic Intermodal
 1135 System facilities in order to accommodate any development at the
 1136 facility which occurs pursuant to a building permit issued on or
 1137 before December 31, 2017, but only if such facility is located:

1138 1. Within an area designated pursuant to s. 288.0656(7) as
 1139 a rural area of opportunity ~~critical economic concern~~;

1140 2. Within a rural enterprise zone as defined in s.
 1141 290.004(5); or

1142 3. Within 15 miles of the boundary of a rural area of
 1143 opportunity ~~critical economic concern~~ or a rural enterprise

1144 zone.

1145 Section 29. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section
 1146 373.4595, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1147 373.4595 Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection
 1148 Program.—

1149 (3) LAKE OKEECHOBEE WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM.—A
 1150 protection program for Lake Okeechobee that achieves phosphorus
 1151 load reductions for Lake Okeechobee shall be immediately
 1152 implemented as specified in this subsection. The program shall
 1153 address the reduction of phosphorus loading to the lake from
 1154 both internal and external sources. Phosphorus load reductions
 1155 shall be achieved through a phased program of implementation.
 1156 Initial implementation actions shall be technology-based, based
 1157 upon a consideration of both the availability of appropriate
 1158 technology and the cost of such technology, and shall include
 1159 phosphorus reduction measures at both the source and the
 1160 regional level. The initial phase of phosphorus load reductions
 1161 shall be based upon the district's Technical Publication 81-2
 1162 and the district's WOD program, with subsequent phases of
 1163 phosphorus load reductions based upon the total maximum daily
 1164 loads established in accordance with s. 403.067. In the
 1165 development and administration of the Lake Okeechobee Watershed
 1166 Protection Program, the coordinating agencies shall maximize
 1167 opportunities provided by federal cost-sharing programs and
 1168 opportunities for partnerships with the private sector.

1169 (c) Lake Okeechobee Watershed Phosphorus Control Program.—

1170 The Lake Okeechobee Watershed Phosphorus Control Program is
1171 designed to be a multifaceted approach to reducing phosphorus
1172 loads by improving the management of phosphorus sources within
1173 the Lake Okeechobee watershed through implementation of
1174 regulations and best management practices, development and
1175 implementation of improved best management practices,
1176 improvement and restoration of the hydrologic function of
1177 natural and managed systems, and utilization of alternative
1178 technologies for nutrient reduction. The coordinating agencies
1179 shall facilitate the application of federal programs that offer
1180 opportunities for water quality treatment, including
1181 preservation, restoration, or creation of wetlands on
1182 agricultural lands.

1183 1. Agricultural nonpoint source best management practices,
1184 developed in accordance with s. 403.067 and designed to achieve
1185 the objectives of the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Protection
1186 Program, shall be implemented on an expedited basis. The
1187 coordinating agencies shall develop an interagency agreement
1188 pursuant to ss. 373.046 and 373.406(5) that assures the
1189 development of best management practices that complement
1190 existing regulatory programs and specifies how those best
1191 management practices are implemented and verified. The
1192 interagency agreement shall address measures to be taken by the
1193 coordinating agencies during any best management practice
1194 reevaluation performed pursuant to sub-subparagraph d. The
1195 department shall use best professional judgment in making the

1196 initial determination of best management practice effectiveness.

1197 a. As provided in s. 403.067(7)(c), the Department of
1198 Agriculture and Consumer Services, in consultation with the
1199 department, the district, and affected parties, shall initiate
1200 rule development for interim measures, best management
1201 practices, conservation plans, nutrient management plans, or
1202 other measures necessary for Lake Okeechobee watershed total
1203 maximum daily load reduction. The rule shall include thresholds
1204 for requiring conservation and nutrient management plans and
1205 criteria for the contents of such plans. Development of
1206 agricultural nonpoint source best management practices shall
1207 initially focus on those priority basins listed in subparagraph
1208 (b)1. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, in
1209 consultation with the department, the district, and affected
1210 parties, shall conduct an ongoing program for improvement of
1211 existing and development of new interim measures or best
1212 management practices for the purpose of adoption of such
1213 practices by rule. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer
1214 Services shall work with the University of Florida's Institute
1215 of Food and Agriculture Sciences to review and, where
1216 appropriate, develop revised nutrient application rates for all
1217 agricultural soil amendments in the watershed.

1218 b. Where agricultural nonpoint source best management
1219 practices or interim measures have been adopted by rule of the
1220 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the owner or
1221 operator of an agricultural nonpoint source addressed by such

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1222 rule shall either implement interim measures or best management
1223 practices or demonstrate compliance with the district's WOD
1224 program by conducting monitoring prescribed by the department or
1225 the district. Owners or operators of agricultural nonpoint
1226 sources who implement interim measures or best management
1227 practices adopted by rule of the Department of Agriculture and
1228 Consumer Services shall be subject to the provisions of s.
1229 403.067(7). The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services,
1230 in cooperation with the department and the district, shall
1231 provide technical and financial assistance for implementation of
1232 agricultural best management practices, subject to the
1233 availability of funds.

1234 c. The district or department shall conduct monitoring at
1235 representative sites to verify the effectiveness of agricultural
1236 nonpoint source best management practices.

1237 d. Where water quality problems are detected for
1238 agricultural nonpoint sources despite the appropriate
1239 implementation of adopted best management practices, the
1240 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, in consultation
1241 with the other coordinating agencies and affected parties, shall
1242 institute a reevaluation of the best management practices and
1243 make appropriate changes to the rule adopting best management
1244 practices.

1245 2. Nonagricultural nonpoint source best management
1246 practices, developed in accordance with s. 403.067 and designed
1247 to achieve the objectives of the Lake Okeechobee Watershed

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1248 Protection Program, shall be implemented on an expedited basis.
1249 The department and the district shall develop an interagency
1250 agreement pursuant to ss. 373.046 and 373.406(5) that assures
1251 the development of best management practices that complement
1252 existing regulatory programs and specifies how those best
1253 management practices are implemented and verified. The
1254 interagency agreement shall address measures to be taken by the
1255 department and the district during any best management practice
1256 reevaluation performed pursuant to sub-subparagraph d.

1257 a. The department and the district are directed to work
1258 with the University of Florida's Institute of Food and
1259 Agricultural Sciences to develop appropriate nutrient
1260 application rates for all nonagricultural soil amendments in the
1261 watershed. As provided in s. 403.067(7)(c), the department, in
1262 consultation with the district and affected parties, shall
1263 develop interim measures, best management practices, or other
1264 measures necessary for Lake Okeechobee watershed total maximum
1265 daily load reduction. Development of nonagricultural nonpoint
1266 source best management practices shall initially focus on those
1267 priority basins listed in subparagraph (b)1. The department, the
1268 district, and affected parties shall conduct an ongoing program
1269 for improvement of existing and development of new interim
1270 measures or best management practices. The district shall adopt
1271 technology-based standards under the district's WOD program for
1272 nonagricultural nonpoint sources of phosphorus. Nothing in this
1273 sub-subparagraph shall affect the authority of the department or

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1274 the district to adopt basin-specific criteria under this part to
1275 prevent harm to the water resources of the district.

1276 b. Where nonagricultural nonpoint source best management
1277 practices or interim measures have been developed by the
1278 department and adopted by the district, the owner or operator of
1279 a nonagricultural nonpoint source shall implement interim
1280 measures or best management practices and be subject to the
1281 provisions of s. 403.067(7). The department and district shall
1282 provide technical and financial assistance for implementation of
1283 nonagricultural nonpoint source best management practices,
1284 subject to the availability of funds.

1285 c. The district or the department shall conduct monitoring
1286 at representative sites to verify the effectiveness of
1287 nonagricultural nonpoint source best management practices.

1288 d. Where water quality problems are detected for
1289 nonagricultural nonpoint sources despite the appropriate
1290 implementation of adopted best management practices, the
1291 department and the district shall institute a reevaluation of
1292 the best management practices.

1293 3. The provisions of subparagraphs 1. and 2. shall not
1294 preclude the department or the district from requiring
1295 compliance with water quality standards or with current best
1296 management practices requirements set forth in any applicable
1297 regulatory program authorized by law for the purpose of
1298 protecting water quality. Additionally, subparagraphs 1. and 2.
1299 are applicable only to the extent that they do not conflict with

1300 any rules promulgated by the department that are necessary to
1301 maintain a federally delegated or approved program.

1302 4. Projects that reduce the phosphorus load originating
1303 from domestic wastewater systems within the Lake Okeechobee
1304 watershed shall be given funding priority in the department's
1305 revolving loan program under s. 403.1835. The department shall
1306 coordinate and provide assistance to those local governments
1307 seeking financial assistance for such priority projects.

1308 5. Projects that make use of private lands, or lands held
1309 in trust for Indian tribes, to reduce nutrient loadings or
1310 concentrations within a basin by one or more of the following
1311 methods: restoring the natural hydrology of the basin, restoring
1312 wildlife habitat or impacted wetlands, reducing peak flows after
1313 storm events, increasing aquifer recharge, or protecting range
1314 and timberland from conversion to development, are eligible for
1315 grants available under this section from the coordinating
1316 agencies. For projects of otherwise equal priority, special
1317 funding priority will be given to those projects that make best
1318 use of the methods outlined above that involve public-private
1319 partnerships or that obtain federal match money. Preference
1320 ranking above the special funding priority will be given to
1321 projects located in a rural area of opportunity ~~critical~~
1322 ~~economic concern~~ designated by the Governor. Grant applications
1323 may be submitted by any person or tribal entity, and eligible
1324 projects may include, but are not limited to, the purchase of
1325 conservation and flowage easements, hydrologic restoration of

1326 wetlands, creating treatment wetlands, development of a
1327 management plan for natural resources, and financial support to
1328 implement a management plan.

1329 6.a. The department shall require all entities disposing
1330 of domestic wastewater residuals within the Lake Okeechobee
1331 watershed and the remaining areas of Okeechobee, Glades, and
1332 Hendry Counties to develop and submit to the department an
1333 agricultural use plan that limits applications based upon
1334 phosphorus loading. By July 1, 2005, phosphorus concentrations
1335 originating from these application sites shall not exceed the
1336 limits established in the district's WOD program. After December
1337 31, 2007, the department may not authorize the disposal of
1338 domestic wastewater residuals within the Lake Okeechobee
1339 watershed unless the applicant can affirmatively demonstrate
1340 that the phosphorus in the residuals will not add to phosphorus
1341 loadings in Lake Okeechobee or its tributaries. This
1342 demonstration shall be based on achieving a net balance between
1343 phosphorus imports relative to exports on the permitted
1344 application site. Exports shall include only phosphorus removed
1345 from the Lake Okeechobee watershed through products generated on
1346 the permitted application site. This prohibition does not apply
1347 to Class AA residuals that are marketed and distributed as
1348 fertilizer products in accordance with department rule.

1349 b. Private and government-owned utilities within Monroe,
1350 Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Indian
1351 River, Okeechobee, Highlands, Hendry, and Glades Counties that

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1352 dispose of wastewater residual sludge from utility operations
1353 and septic removal by land spreading in the Lake Okeechobee
1354 watershed may use a line item on local sewer rates to cover
1355 wastewater residual treatment and disposal if such disposal and
1356 treatment is done by approved alternative treatment methodology
1357 at a facility located within the areas designated by the
1358 Governor as rural areas of opportunity ~~critical-economic-concern~~
1359 pursuant to s. 288.0656. This additional line item is an
1360 environmental protection disposal fee above the present sewer
1361 rate and shall not be considered a part of the present sewer
1362 rate to customers, notwithstanding provisions to the contrary in
1363 chapter 367. The fee shall be established by the county
1364 commission or its designated assignee in the county in which the
1365 alternative method treatment facility is located. The fee shall
1366 be calculated to be no higher than that necessary to recover the
1367 facility's prudent cost of providing the service. Upon request
1368 by an affected county commission, the Florida Public Service
1369 Commission will provide assistance in establishing the fee.
1370 Further, for utilities and utility authorities that use the
1371 additional line item environmental protection disposal fee, such
1372 fee shall not be considered a rate increase under the rules of
1373 the Public Service Commission and shall be exempt from such
1374 rules. Utilities using the provisions of this section may
1375 immediately include in their sewer invoicing the new
1376 environmental protection disposal fee. Proceeds from this
1377 environmental protection disposal fee shall be used for

1378 treatment and disposal of wastewater residuals, including any
1379 treatment technology that helps reduce the volume of residuals
1380 that require final disposal, but such proceeds shall not be used
1381 for transportation or shipment costs for disposal or any costs
1382 relating to the land application of residuals in the Lake
1383 Okeechobee watershed.

1384 c. No less frequently than once every 3 years, the Florida
1385 Public Service Commission or the county commission through the
1386 services of an independent auditor shall perform a financial
1387 audit of all facilities receiving compensation from an
1388 environmental protection disposal fee. The Florida Public
1389 Service Commission or the county commission through the services
1390 of an independent auditor shall also perform an audit of the
1391 methodology used in establishing the environmental protection
1392 disposal fee. The Florida Public Service Commission or the
1393 county commission shall, within 120 days after completion of an
1394 audit, file the audit report with the President of the Senate
1395 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives and shall
1396 provide copies to the county commissions of the counties set
1397 forth in sub-subparagraph b. The books and records of any
1398 facilities receiving compensation from an environmental
1399 protection disposal fee shall be open to the Florida Public
1400 Service Commission and the Auditor General for review upon
1401 request.

1402 7. The Department of Health shall require all entities
1403 disposing of septage within the Lake Okeechobee watershed to

1404 develop and submit to that agency an agricultural use plan that
 1405 limits applications based upon phosphorus loading. By July 1,
 1406 2005, phosphorus concentrations originating from these
 1407 application sites shall not exceed the limits established in the
 1408 district's WOD program.

1409 8. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
 1410 shall initiate rulemaking requiring entities within the Lake
 1411 Okeechobee watershed which land-apply animal manure to develop
 1412 resource management system level conservation plans, according
 1413 to United States Department of Agriculture criteria, which limit
 1414 such application. Such rules may include criteria and thresholds
 1415 for the requirement to develop a conservation or nutrient
 1416 management plan, requirements for plan approval, and
 1417 recordkeeping requirements.

1418 9. The district, the department, or the Department of
 1419 Agriculture and Consumer Services, as appropriate, shall
 1420 implement those alternative nutrient reduction technologies
 1421 determined to be feasible pursuant to subparagraph (d)6.

1422 Section 30. Paragraph (e) of subsection (2) and paragraph
 1423 (b) of subsection (26) of section 380.06, Florida Statutes, are
 1424 amended to read:

1425 380.06 Developments of regional impact.—

1426 (2) STATEWIDE GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS.—

1427 (e) With respect to residential, hotel, motel, office, and
 1428 retail developments, the applicable guidelines and standards
 1429 shall be increased by 50 percent in urban central business

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1430 districts and regional activity centers of jurisdictions whose
1431 local comprehensive plans are in compliance with part II of
1432 chapter 163. With respect to multiuse developments, the
1433 applicable individual use guidelines and standards for
1434 residential, hotel, motel, office, and retail developments and
1435 multiuse guidelines and standards shall be increased by 100
1436 percent in urban central business districts and regional
1437 activity centers of jurisdictions whose local comprehensive
1438 plans are in compliance with part II of chapter 163, if one land
1439 use of the multiuse development is residential and amounts to
1440 not less than 35 percent of the jurisdiction's applicable
1441 residential threshold. With respect to resort or convention
1442 hotel developments, the applicable guidelines and standards
1443 shall be increased by 150 percent in urban central business
1444 districts and regional activity centers of jurisdictions whose
1445 local comprehensive plans are in compliance with part II of
1446 chapter 163 and where the increase is specifically for a
1447 proposed resort or convention hotel located in a county with a
1448 population greater than 500,000 and the local government
1449 specifically designates that the proposed resort or convention
1450 hotel development will serve an existing convention center of
1451 more than 250,000 gross square feet built before ~~prior to~~ July
1452 1, 1992. The applicable guidelines and standards shall be
1453 increased by 150 percent for development in any area designated
1454 by the Governor as a rural area of opportunity ~~critical economic~~
1455 ~~concern~~ pursuant to s. 288.0656 during the effectiveness of the

1456 designation.

1457 (26) ABANDONMENT OF DEVELOPMENTS OF REGIONAL IMPACT.—

1458 (b) Upon receipt of written confirmation from the state
 1459 land planning agency that any required mitigation applicable to
 1460 completed development has occurred, an industrial development of
 1461 regional impact located within the coastal high-hazard area of a
 1462 rural area of opportunity ~~county of economic concern~~ which was
 1463 approved before ~~prior to~~ the adoption of the local government's
 1464 comprehensive plan required under s. 163.3167 and which plan's
 1465 future land use map and zoning designates the land use for the
 1466 development of regional impact as commercial may be unilaterally
 1467 abandoned without the need to proceed through the process
 1468 described in paragraph (a) if the developer or owner provides a
 1469 notice of abandonment to the local government and records such
 1470 notice with the applicable clerk of court. Abandonment shall be
 1471 deemed to have occurred upon the recording of the notice. All
 1472 development following abandonment shall be fully consistent with
 1473 the current comprehensive plan and applicable zoning.

1474 Section 31. Paragraph (g) of subsection (3) of section
 1475 380.0651, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1476 380.0651 Statewide guidelines and standards.—

1477 (3) The following statewide guidelines and standards shall
 1478 be applied in the manner described in s. 380.06(2) to determine
 1479 whether the following developments shall be required to undergo
 1480 development-of-regional-impact review:

1481 (g) Residential development.—No rule may be adopted

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1482 concerning residential developments which treats a residential
1483 development in one county as being located in a less populated
1484 adjacent county unless more than 25 percent of the development
1485 is located within 2 ~~or less~~ miles or less of the less populated
1486 adjacent county. The residential thresholds of adjacent counties
1487 with less population and a lower threshold shall not be
1488 controlling on any development wholly located within areas
1489 designated as rural areas of opportunity ~~critical economic~~
1490 ~~concern~~.

1491 Section 32. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section
1492 985.686, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1493 985.686 Shared county and state responsibility for
1494 juvenile detention.—

1495 (2) As used in this section, the term:

1496 (b) "Fiscally constrained county" means a county within a
1497 rural area of opportunity ~~critical economic concern~~ as
1498 designated by the Governor pursuant to s. 288.0656 or each
1499 county for which the value of a mill will raise no more than \$5
1500 million in revenue, based on the certified school taxable value
1501 certified pursuant to s. 1011.62(4)(a)1.a., from the previous
1502 July 1.

1503 Section 33. Subsection (2) of section 1011.76, Florida
1504 Statutes, is amended to read:

1505 1011.76 Small School District Stabilization Program.—

1506 (2) In order to participate in this program, a school
1507 district must be located in a rural area of opportunity ~~critical~~

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1508 ~~economic concern~~ designated by the Executive Office of the
1509 Governor, and the district school board must submit a resolution
1510 to the Department of Economic Opportunity requesting
1511 participation in the program. A rural area of opportunity
1512 ~~critical economic concern~~ must be a rural community, or a region
1513 composed of such, that has been adversely affected by an
1514 extraordinary economic event or a natural disaster or that
1515 presents a unique economic development concern or opportunity of
1516 regional impact. The resolution must be accompanied by ~~with~~
1517 documentation of the economic conditions in the community and
1518 provide information indicating the negative impact of these
1519 conditions on the school district's financial stability, and the
1520 school district must participate in a best financial management
1521 practices review to determine potential efficiencies that could
1522 be implemented to reduce program costs in the district.

1523 Section 34. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.