

By Senator Gainer

2-01342-18

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to rural economic development;
3 amending s. 288.018, F.S.; increasing the maximum
4 grant amount under the Regional Rural Development
5 Grants Program for organizations in rural areas of
6 opportunity; revising the amount of a grant which
7 organizations in rural areas of opportunity are
8 required to match; providing an effective date.

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

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12 Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 288.018, Florida
13 Statutes, is amended to read:

14 288.018 Regional Rural Development Grants Program.—

15 (1) The department shall establish a matching grant program
16 to provide funding to regionally based economic development
17 organizations representing rural counties and communities for
18 the purpose of building the professional capacity of their
19 organizations. Such matching grants may also be used by an
20 economic development organization to provide technical
21 assistance to businesses within the rural counties and
22 communities that it serves. The department is authorized to
23 approve, on an annual basis, grants to such regionally based
24 economic development organizations. The maximum amount an
25 organization may receive in any year will be \$50,000, or
26 \$250,000 to an organization ~~\$150,000~~ in a rural area of
27 opportunity recommended by the Rural Economic Development
28 Initiative and designated by the Governor. The grant, ~~and~~ must
29 be matched each year by the organization in an equivalent amount

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30 of nonstate resources, except that a grant to an organization in
31 a rural area of opportunity must be matched each year with
32 nonstate resources equivalent to half of the grant amount.

33 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.