

Amendment No.

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

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Representative Richardson offered the following:

**Amendment (with title amendment)**

Remove lines 68-246 and insert:

leadership development, and marketing and project recruitment.

~~Such~~ Matching grants may also be used by a regional ~~an~~ economic

development organization to provide technical assistance to

local governments, local economic development organizations, and

existing and prospective businesses within the rural counties

and communities that it serves. A regional economic development

organization that provides taxpayer funded incentives to

existing or prospective businesses is not eligible to

participate in the matching grant program.

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14        (b) A regional economic development organization may apply  
15 to the department for a matching grant each year. The department  
16 is authorized to approve an application for a grant up to:

17        1. Fifty thousand dollars to a regional economic  
18 development organization;

19        2. One hundred fifty thousand dollars to an organization  
20 located, ~~on an annual basis, grants to such regionally based~~  
21 ~~economic development organizations. The maximum amount an~~  
22 ~~organization may receive in any year will be \$50,000, or~~  
23 ~~\$150,000~~ in a rural area of opportunity designated pursuant to  
24 s. 288.0656; or

25        3. Two hundred fifty thousand dollars to any of the three  
26 regional economic development organizations that serve an entire  
27 region of a rural area of opportunity designated pursuant to s.  
28 288.0656 and that are recognized by the department as serving  
29 such regions.

30        (c) Grant funds received by a regional economic  
31 development organization recommended by the Rural Economic  
32 ~~Development Initiative and designated by the Governor,~~ and must  
33 be matched each year by ~~an equivalent amount of nonstate~~  
34 resources in an amount equal to 25 percent of the state  
35 contribution.

36        (3) (a) A contract or agreement that involves the  
37 expenditure of grant funds provided under this section must be  
38 placed on the contracting regional economic development

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39 organization's website at least 14 days before execution.

40 (b) A contract or agreement that involves the expenditure  
41 of grant funds provided under this section, including a contract  
42 or agreement entered into between another entity and a regional  
43 economic development organization, a unit of local government,  
44 or an economic development organization substantially  
45 underwritten by a unit of local government, must include:

- 46 1. The purpose of the contract or agreement.
- 47 2. Specific performance standards and responsibilities for  
48 each entity.
- 49 3. A detailed project or contract budget, if applicable.
- 50 4. The value of any services provided.
- 51 5. The projected travel and entertainment expenses for  
52 employees and board members, if applicable.

53 (c) A plain language version of a contract or agreement  
54 with a private entity, a municipality, or a vendor of services,  
55 supplies, or programs, including marketing, or for the purchase  
56 or lease or use of lands, facilities, or properties which  
57 involves the expenditure of grant funds provided under this  
58 section and which is estimated to exceed \$35,000 must be posted  
59 on the contracting regional economic development organization's  
60 website ~~The department may also contract for the development of~~  
61 ~~an enterprise zone web portal or websites for each enterprise~~  
62 ~~zone which will be used to market the program for job creation~~  
63 ~~in disadvantaged urban and rural enterprise zones. Each~~

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64 ~~enterprise zone web page should include downloadable links to~~  
65 ~~state forms and information, as well as local message boards~~  
66 ~~that help businesses and residents receive information~~  
67 ~~concerning zone boundaries, job openings, zone programs, and~~  
68 ~~neighborhood improvement activities.~~

69 (4) The department may expend up to \$1 million ~~\$750,000~~  
70 each fiscal year from funds appropriated to the Rural Community  
71 Development Revolving Loan Fund for the purposes outlined in  
72 this section. The department may contract with Enterprise  
73 Florida, Inc., for the administration of the purposes specified  
74 in this section. Funds released to Enterprise Florida, Inc., for  
75 this purpose shall be released quarterly and shall be calculated  
76 based on the applications in process.

77 Section 2. Subsection (5) of section 288.0655, Florida  
78 Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (6), paragraph (b) of  
79 subsection (2) and subsection (4) are amended, and a new  
80 subsection (5) is added to that section, to read:

81 288.0655 Rural Infrastructure Fund.—

82 (2)(b) To facilitate access of rural communities and rural  
83 areas of opportunity as defined by the Rural Economic  
84 Development Initiative to infrastructure funding programs of the  
85 Federal Government, such as those offered by the United States  
86 Department of Agriculture and the United States Department of  
87 Commerce, and state programs, including those offered by Rural  
88 Economic Development Initiative agencies, and to facilitate

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89 local government or private infrastructure funding efforts, the  
90 department may award grants for up to 50 ~~30~~ percent of the total  
91 infrastructure project cost. ~~If an application for funding is~~  
92 ~~for a catalyst site, as defined in s. 288.0656, the department~~  
93 ~~may award grants for up to 40 percent of the total~~  
94 ~~infrastructure project cost.~~ Eligible projects must be related  
95 to specific job-creation or job-retention opportunities.  
96 Eligible projects may also include improving any inadequate  
97 infrastructure that has resulted in regulatory action that  
98 prohibits economic or community growth or reducing the costs to  
99 community users of proposed infrastructure improvements that  
100 exceed such costs in comparable communities, which includes  
101 improving access to and the availability of broadband Internet  
102 service. Eligible uses of funds shall include improvements to  
103 public infrastructure for industrial or commercial sites, and  
104 upgrades to or development of public tourism infrastructure, and  
105 improvements to broadband Internet service and access in  
106 unserved or underserved rural communities. Improvements to  
107 broadband Internet service and access must be conducted through  
108 a partnership or partnerships with one or more dealers of  
109 communications services, as defined in s. 202.11(2), and the  
110 partnership must be established by a publicly noticed and  
111 competitively selected process. Authorized infrastructure may  
112 include the following public or public-private partnership  
113 facilities: storm water systems; telecommunications facilities;

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114 broadband facilities; roads or other remedies to transportation  
115 impediments; nature-based tourism facilities; or other physical  
116 requirements necessary to facilitate tourism, trade, and  
117 economic development activities in the community. Authorized  
118 infrastructure may also include publicly or privately owned  
119 self-powered nature-based tourism facilities, publicly owned  
120 telecommunications facilities, and broadband facilities, and  
121 additions to the distribution facilities of the existing natural  
122 gas utility as defined in s. 366.04(3)(c), the existing electric  
123 utility as defined in s. 366.02, or the existing water or  
124 wastewater utility as defined in s. 367.021(12), or any other  
125 existing water or wastewater facility, which owns a gas or  
126 electric distribution system or a water or wastewater system in  
127 this state where:

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

132 2. Such utilities as defined herein are willing and able  
133 to provide such service.

134 (4) By September 1, 2019 ~~2012~~, the department shall, in  
135 consultation with the organizations listed in subsection (3),  
136 and other organizations, reevaluate existing guidelines and  
137 criteria governing submission of applications for funding,  
138 review and evaluation of such applications, and approval of

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139 funding under this section. The department shall consider  
140 factors including, but not limited to, the project's potential  
141 for enhanced job creation or increased capital investment, the  
142 demonstration and level of local public and private commitment,  
143 whether the project is located ~~in an enterprise zone,~~ in a  
144 community development corporation service area, or in an urban  
145 high-crime area as designated under s. 212.097, the unemployment  
146 rate of the county in which the project would be located, and  
147 the poverty rate of the community.

148 (5) (a) A contract or agreement that involves the  
149 expenditure of grant funds provided under this section must be  
150 placed on the department's website at least 14 days before  
151 execution.

152 (b) A contract or agreement that includes the expenditure  
153 of grant funds provided under this section, including a contract  
154 or agreement entered into between an entity and a regional  
155 economic development organization, a unit of local government,  
156 or an economic development organization substantially  
157 underwritten by a unit of local government, must include:

158 1. The purpose of the contract or agreement.

159 2. Specific performance standards and responsibilities for  
160 each entity.

161 3. A detailed project or contract budget, if applicable.

162 4. The value of any services provided.

163 5. The projected travel and entertainment expenses for

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164 employees and board members, if applicable.

165 (c) A plain language version of a contract or agreement  
166 with a private entity, a municipality, or a vendor of services,  
167 supplies, or programs, including marketing, or for the purchase  
168 or lease or use of lands, facilities, or properties which  
169 involves the expenditure of grant funds provided under this  
170 section and which is estimated to exceed \$35,000 must be posted  
171 on the department's website.

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

175 Remove lines 43-51 and insert:

176 on a certain website; providing an effective date.