

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the Small Business Roadway
 3 Construction Mitigation Grant Program; creating s.
 4 339.28154, F.S.; providing legislative findings;
 5 requiring the Department of Transportation to create a
 6 Small Business Roadway Construction Mitigation Grant
 7 Program; defining the terms "construction mitigation
 8 zone" and "qualified business"; requiring the program
 9 to disburse grants to qualified businesses for the
 10 purpose of maintaining the businesses during a
 11 construction project of the department; limiting the
 12 amount of each grant; providing application and
 13 eligibility requirements; requiring the Department of
 14 Economic Opportunity to provide assistance under
 15 certain circumstances; providing for prioritization of
 16 awards; requiring the Department of Transportation to
 17 report to the Legislature and initiate rulemaking by
 18 specified dates; providing an effective date.

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

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 22 Section 1. Section 339.28154, Florida Statutes, is created
 23 to read:

24 339.28154 Small Business Roadway Construction Mitigation
 25 Grant Program.—

26 (1) The Legislature finds that it is in the best interest
27 of the state to support small businesses that are negatively
28 impacted by state construction projects and to mitigate the
29 negative impacts on such businesses. While the benefit of
30 construction and development by the state ultimately helps small
31 business growth, small businesses may experience, in the short
32 term, decreased revenue that may decrease economic activity,
33 state revenue, and employment.

34 (2) The department shall create a Small Business Roadway
35 Construction Mitigation Grant Program to provide support for
36 small businesses that are impacted by state construction
37 projects.

38 (3) As used in this section, the term:

39 (a) "Construction mitigation zone" means a geographic area
40 with a high concentration of qualified businesses which is
41 designated by the department as being impacted by a construction
42 project of the department.

43 (b) "Qualified business" means an entity that:

- 44 1. Is engaged in a for-profit business enterprise;
45 2. Employs up to 40 full-time or part-time employees; and
46 3. Is located in a construction mitigation zone.

47 (4) (a) Using funds allocated to the department by the
48 Legislature, the Small Business Roadway Construction Mitigation
49 Grant Program shall disburse grants to qualified businesses for
50 the purpose of maintaining the businesses during the

51 construction.

52 (b) The grant to each qualified business may not exceed
53 the decline in revenue or profits demonstrated by the business
54 or \$15,000 per calendar year, whichever is less.

55 (c) A qualified business may apply for a construction
56 mitigation grant only for a construction project lasting 90 days
57 or more. To be eligible for a grant, the qualified business must
58 demonstrate in its application a significant decline in revenue
59 or profits, including timelines connecting the project to such
60 loss of revenue or profits, in a format and manner prescribed by
61 the department. The Department of Economic Opportunity shall,
62 upon request and at no cost to the applicant, assist an
63 applicant in preparing documentation to demonstrate such
64 decline.

65 (5) The department shall prioritize the award of each
66 construction mitigation grant on a case-by-case basis using all
67 of the following criteria:

68 (a) Rate of decline in revenue or profits.

69 (b) Construction duration.

70 (c) Proximity to construction.

71 (d) Severity of traffic disruption.

72 (e) Lack of access to parking.

73 (f) Lack of access for pedestrian traffic.

74 (g) Any other criteria the department determines to be
75 relevant.

76 (6) The department shall make a report detailing best
77 practices and methods to reduce the negative impacts of
78 construction projects on qualified businesses. By January 31,
79 2019, the department shall submit the report, including a list
80 of recommendations, to the President of the Senate and the
81 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

82 (7) By August 31, 2018, the department shall initiate
83 rulemaking to implement this section.

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