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A bill to be entitled
 An act relating to a zoological and aquarium grant program; creating s. 288.1259, F.S.; authorizing the Department of Economic Opportunity to establish a grant program for the support of zoos and aquariums located within the state; providing eligibility requirements; authorizing the use of grant funds for certain purposes; requiring the department to adopt rules; providing that the department has final grant approval authority; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 288.1259, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

288.1259 Zoological and aquarium grant program.—

(1) The department is authorized to establish a grant program for the support of zoos and aquariums located within the state. To be eligible for grant funding under this section, the facility must be accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. Grant funds awarded to a facility may be used for capital expenditures, operational support, and educational, conservation, and research initiatives.

(2) The department shall adopt rules establishing grant application requirements, a timeline for submission of grant

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26 applications, a timeline for announcement of awards, and any
27 procedures necessary for the prudent administration of the grant
28 program.

29 (3) The department has final approval authority for grants
30 made under this section.

31 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.