

Amendment No. 1

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

ADOPTED	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
ADOPTED AS AMENDED	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
FAILED TO ADOPT	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
WITHDRAWN	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
OTHER	<u> </u>	

1 Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Commerce Committee
2 Representative Drake offered the following:

Amendment (with title amendment)

Remove lines 18-58 and insert:

Section 1. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 288.018,
Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

288.018 Regional Rural Development Grants Program.—

(1) (a) For the purposes of this section, the term "regional economic development organization" means an economic development organization located in or contracted to serve a rural area of opportunity, as defined in s. 288.0656(2)(d).

(b) The department shall establish a ~~matching~~ grant program to provide funding to regional economic development organizations for the purpose of building the professional capacity of those organizations. Building the professional

Amendment No. 1

17 capacity of a regional economic development organization
18 includes hiring professional staff to develop, deliver, and
19 provide needed economic development professional services,
20 including technical assistance, education and leadership
21 development, marketing, and project recruitment. ~~Matching~~ Grants
22 may also be used by a regional economic development organization
23 to provide technical assistance to local governments, local
24 economic development organizations, and existing and prospective
25 businesses.

26 (c) A regional economic development organization may apply
27 annually to the department for a ~~matching~~ grant. The department
28 is authorized to approve, on an annual basis, grants to such
29 regional economic development organizations. The maximum amount
30 an organization may receive in any year will be \$50,000, or
31 \$250,000 for any three regional economic development
32 organizations that serve an entire region of a rural area of
33 opportunity designated pursuant to s. 288.0656(7) if they are
34 recognized by the department as serving such a region.

35 ~~(d) Grant funds received by a regional economic development~~
36 ~~organization must be matched each year by nonstate resources in~~
37 ~~an amount equal to 25 percent of the state contribution.~~

38 (2) In approving the participants, the department shall
39 consider the demonstrated need of the applicant for assistance
40 and require the following:

Amendment No. 1

41 (a) Documentation of official commitments of support from
42 each of the units of local government represented by the
43 regional organization.

44 ~~(b) Demonstration that each unit of local government has~~
45 ~~made a financial or in-kind commitment to the regional~~
46 ~~organization.~~

47 ~~(c) Demonstration that the private sector has made~~
48 ~~financial or in-kind commitments to the regional organization.~~

49 (b)~~(d)~~ Demonstration that the organization is in existence
50 and actively involved in economic development activities serving
51 the region.

52 (c)~~(e)~~ Demonstration of the manner in which the
53 organization is or will coordinate its efforts with those of
54 other local and state organizations.

55 Section 2. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section
56 288.065, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

57 288.065 Rural Community Development Revolving Loan Fund.—

58 (2)

59 (c) All repayments of principal and interest shall be
60 returned to the loan fund and made available for loans to other
61 applicants. However, in a rural area of opportunity designated
62 by the Governor, and upon approval by the department, repayments
63 of principal and interest may be retained by the applicant if
64 such repayments are dedicated ~~and matched~~ to fund regionally

Amendment No. 1

65 based economic development organizations representing the rural
66 area of opportunity.

67 Section 3. Subsection (1), paragraphs (b), (c), and (e) of
68 subsection (2), and subsection (3) of section 288.0655, Florida
69 Statutes, are amended to read:

70 288.0655 Rural Infrastructure Fund.—

71 (1) There is created within the department the Rural
72 Infrastructure Fund to facilitate the planning, preparing, and
73 financing of infrastructure ~~projects~~ in rural communities which
74 will encourage job creation, capital investment, and the
75 strengthening and diversification of rural economies by
76 promoting tourism, trade, and economic development.

77 (2)

78 (b) To facilitate access of rural communities and rural
79 areas of opportunity as defined by the Rural Economic
80 Development Initiative to infrastructure funding programs of the
81 Federal Government, such as those offered by the United States
82 Department of Agriculture and the United States Department of
83 Commerce, and state programs, including those offered by Rural
84 Economic Development Initiative agencies, and to facilitate
85 local government or private infrastructure funding efforts, the
86 department may award grants for up to ~~50~~ 75 percent of the total
87 infrastructure project cost, or up to 100 percent of the total
88 infrastructure project cost for a project located in a rural
89 community as defined in s. 288.0656(2) (e) or a rural area of

Amendment No. 1

90 opportunity as defined in s. 288.0656(2) (d), and is also located
91 in a fiscally constrained county as defined in s. 218.67(1).
92 ~~Eligible projects must be related~~

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

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Remove lines 3-4 and insert:

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288.018, F.S.; removing the required grant match