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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
04/26/2023	.	
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The Committee on Fiscal Policy (Simon) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete lines 58 - 159

and insert:

Section 2. Paragraphs (b), (c), and (e) of subsection (2) and subsection (3) of section 288.0655, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

288.0655 Rural Infrastructure Fund.—

(2)

(b) To facilitate access of rural communities and rural



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11 areas of opportunity as defined by the Rural Economic
12 Development Initiative to infrastructure funding programs of the
13 Federal Government, such as those offered by the United States
14 Department of Agriculture and the United States Department of
15 Commerce, and state programs, including those offered by Rural
16 Economic Development Initiative agencies, and to facilitate
17 local government or private infrastructure funding efforts, the
18 department may award grants for up to 75 50 percent of the total
19 infrastructure project cost, or up to 100 percent of the total
20 infrastructure project cost for a project located in a rural
21 community as defined in s. 288.0656(2) which is also located in
22 a fiscally constrained county as defined in s. 218.67(1) or a
23 rural area of opportunity as defined in s. 288.0656(2). ~~Eligible~~
24 ~~projects must be related to specific job-creation or job-~~
25 ~~retention opportunities.~~ Eligible uses of funds ~~projects~~ may
26 also include improving any inadequate infrastructure that has
27 resulted in regulatory action that prohibits economic or
28 community growth, reducing the costs to community users of
29 proposed infrastructure improvements that exceed such costs in
30 comparable communities, ~~and improving access to and the~~
31 ~~availability of broadband Internet service.~~ Eligible uses of
32 funds ~~shall~~ include improvements to public infrastructure for
33 industrial or commercial sites and, upgrades to or development
34 of public tourism infrastructure, ~~and improvements to broadband~~
35 ~~Internet service and access in unserved or underserved rural~~
36 ~~communities. Improvements to broadband Internet service and~~
37 ~~access must be conducted through a partnership or partnerships~~
38 ~~with one or more dealers, as defined in s. 202.11(2), and the~~
39 ~~partnership or partnerships must be established through a~~



40 ~~competitive selection process that is publicly noticed.~~
41 Authorized infrastructure may include the following public or
42 public-private partnership facilities: storm water systems;
43 telecommunications facilities; ~~broadband facilities;~~ roads or
44 other remedies to transportation impediments; nature-based
45 tourism facilities; or other physical requirements necessary to
46 facilitate tourism, trade, and economic development activities
47 in the community. Authorized infrastructure may also include
48 publicly or privately owned self-powered nature-based tourism
49 facilities, publicly owned telecommunications facilities, ~~and~~
50 ~~broadband facilities,~~ and additions to the distribution

51
52 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

53 And the title is amended as follows:

54 Delete lines 8 - 20

55 and insert:

56 construction; amending s. 288.0655, F.S.; revising the
57 percentages of total infrastructure project cost that
58 the Department of Economic Opportunity may award
59 through the fund; providing authorized uses of
60 eligible funds; deleting a provision requiring that
61 eligible projects be related to specified
62 opportunities; deleting provisions that allowed
63 eligible funds be used for broadband Internet service
64 and access; authorizing the department