

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to financial assistance for rural
 3 areas of opportunity; amending s. 215.971, F.S.;
 4 prohibiting certain agency agreements from requiring
 5 the expenditure of funds before reimbursement;
 6 authorizing agencies to undertake certain actions;
 7 providing construction; providing an effective date.

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

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11 Section 1. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 215.971,
 12 Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (3) and (4),
 13 respectively, and a new subsection (2) is added to that section
 14 to read:

15 215.971 Agreements funded with federal or state
 16 assistance.—

17 (2)(a) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, an
 18 agency agreement that provides state or federal financial
 19 assistance to a county or municipal entity within a rural area
 20 of opportunity, as defined in s. 288.0656(2), may not require
 21 the county or municipal entity to expend funds in order to be
 22 reimbursed. For such counties or municipal entities, an agency
 23 may advance funding based on an analysis of estimated costs, pay
 24 service providers and vendors directly, or undertake other
 25 options to meet the requirements of this section.

HB413

2023

26 (b) This subsection may not be construed to alter or limit
27 any other provision of this section.

28 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.