

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to financial assistance for rural  
 3           communities; amending s. 215.971, F.S.; requiring  
 4           certain agency agreements to include a provision  
 5           authorizing the agency to provide for the payment of  
 6           specified invoices; providing intent; providing  
 7           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. Paragraph (h) is added to subsection (1) of  
 12           section 215.971, Florida Statutes, to read:

13           215.971   Agreements funded with federal or state  
 14           assistance.—

15           (1)   An agency agreement that provides state financial  
 16           assistance to a recipient or subrecipient, as those terms are  
 17           defined in s. 215.97, or that provides federal financial  
 18           assistance to a subrecipient, as defined by applicable United  
 19           States Office of Management and Budget circulars, must include  
 20           all of the following:

21           (h)   If the agency agreement provides federal or state  
 22           financial assistance to a county or municipality that is a rural  
 23           community or rural area of opportunity, as those terms are  
 24           defined in s. 288.0656(2), such agreement must include a  
 25           provision that allows the agency to provide for the payment of

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26 invoices to the county or municipality for verified and eligible  
27 performance that has been completed in accordance with the terms  
28 and conditions set forth in the agreement. This provision is  
29 included to alleviate the financial hardships that certain rural  
30 counties and municipalities encounter when administering  
31 agreements and shall be utilized by the agency based on  
32 demonstrated financial hardship. This paragraph may not be  
33 construed to alter or limit any other provisions of federal or  
34 state law, rule, or other regulation.

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