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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

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Senator Simon moved the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete lines 2208 - 2351

and insert:

(6) Beginning in the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the department shall give priority to a county located either wholly or partially within the Everglades Agricultural Area as defined in s. 373.4592(15) which, notwithstanding subsection (4), requests 100 percent of the project costs for an eligible project that meets the criteria established in paragraph (3)(e). Requests under this subsection are limited to \$15 million annually. This



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subsection expires July 1, 2031.

Section 31. Subsections (1), (2), (3), (6), (7), and (8) of section 339.2818, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

339.2818 Small County Outreach Program.—

(1) There is created within the department ~~of Transportation~~ the Small County Outreach Program. The purpose of this program is to assist small county governments in repairing or rehabilitating county bridges, paving unpaved roads, addressing road-related drainage improvements, resurfacing or reconstructing county roads, or constructing capacity or safety improvements to county roads.

(2) For the purposes of this section, the term “small county” means any county that has a population of 200,000 or less as determined by the most recent official population census determination ~~estimate~~ pursuant to s. 186.901.

~~(3) Funds allocated under this program, pursuant to s. 4, ch. 2000-257, Laws of Florida, are in addition to any funds provided pursuant to s. 339.2816, for the Small County Road Assistance Program.~~

(5) ~~(6)~~ Funds paid into the State Transportation Trust Fund pursuant to ss. 201.15, 320.072, and 339.0801 ~~s. 201.15~~ for the purposes of the Small County Outreach Program are hereby annually appropriated for expenditure to support the Small County Outreach Program.

(6) ~~(7)~~ Subject to a specific appropriation in addition to funds annually appropriated for projects under this section, a municipality within a rural area of opportunity or a rural area of opportunity community designated under s. 288.0656(7)(a) may compete for the additional project funding using the criteria



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listed in subsection (3) ~~(4)~~ at up to 100 percent of project costs, excluding capacity improvement projects.

~~(8) Subject to a specific appropriation in addition to funds appropriated for projects under this section, a local government either wholly or partially within the Everglades Agricultural Area as defined in s. 373.4592(15), the Peace River Basin, or the Suwannee River Basin may compete for additional funding using the criteria listed in paragraph (4)(c) at up to 100 percent of project costs on state or county roads used primarily as farm-to-market connections between rural agricultural areas and market distribution centers, excluding capacity improvement projects.~~

Section 32. Section 339.68, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

(Substantial rewording of section.

See s. 339.68, F.S., for present text.)

339.68 Florida Arterial Road Modernization Program.—

(1) The Legislature finds that increasing demands continue to be placed on rural arterial roads in this state by a fast-growing economy, continued population growth, and increased tourism. Investment in the rural arterial roads of this state is needed to maintain the safety, mobility, reliability, and resiliency of the transportation system in order to support the movement of people, goods, and commodities; to enhance economic prosperity and competitiveness; and to enrich the quality of life of the rural communities and the environment of this state.

(2) The Florida Arterial Road Modernization Program is created within the department to make capacity and safety improvements to two-lane arterial roads located in rural



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communities. For purposes of this section, the term "rural community" has the same meaning as provided in s. 288.0656.

(3) Beginning in the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the department shall allocate from the State Transportation Trust Fund a minimum of \$50 million in each fiscal year for purposes of funding the program. This funding is in addition to any other funding provided to the program by any other law.

(4) The department shall use the following criteria to prioritize projects for funding under the program:

(a) Whether the road has documented safety concerns or requires additional safety and design improvements. This may be evidenced by the number of fatalities or crashes per vehicle mile traveled.

(b) Whether the road has or is projected to have a significant amount of truck tractor traffic as determined by the department. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "truck tractor" has the same meaning as in s. 320.01(11).

(c) Whether the road is used to transport agricultural products and commodities from the farm to the market or other sale or distribution point.

(d) Whether the road is used to transport goods to or from warehouses, distribution centers, or intermodal logistics centers as defined in s. 311.101(2).

(e) Whether the road is used as an evacuation route.

(f) Whether the physical condition of the road meets department standards.

(g) Whether the road currently has, or is projected to have within the next 5 years, a level of service of D, E, or F.

(h) Any other criteria related to the impact of a project



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on the public road system or on the state or local economy as determined by the department.

(5) By January 1, 2027, and every 2 years thereafter, the department shall submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a report regarding the use and condition of arterial roads located in rural communities, which report must include the following:

(a) A map of roads located in rural communities which are designated as arterial roads.

(b) A needs assessment that must include, but is not limited to, consideration of infrastructure improvements to improve capacity on arterial roads in rural communities.

(c) A synopsis of the department's project prioritization process.

(d) An estimate of the local and state economic impact of improving capacity on arterial roads in rural communities.

(e) A listing of the arterial roads and the associated improvements to be included in the program and a schedule or timeline for the inclusion of such projects in the work program.

Section 33. (1) The Department of Transportation shall allocate the additional funds provided by this act to implement the Small County Road Assistance Program as created by s. 339.2816, Florida Statutes, and amend the current tentative work program for the 2025-2026 through 2031-2032 fiscal years to include additional projects. In addition, before adoption of the work program, the department shall submit a budget amendment pursuant to s. 339.135(7), Florida Statutes, requesting budget authority necessary to implement the additional projects.

(2) The department shall allocate sufficient funds to



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implement the Florida Arterial Road Modernization Program,
develop a plan to expend the revenues as specified in s. 339.68,
Florida Statutes, and, before its adoption, amend the current
tentative work program for the 2025-2026 through 2031-2032
fiscal years to include the program's projects. In addition,
before adoption of the work program, the department shall submit
a budget amendment pursuant to s. 339.135(7), Florida Statutes,
requesting budget authority necessary to implement the program
as specified in s. 339.68, Florida Statutes.

(3) Notwithstanding any other law, the increase in revenue
to the State Transportation Trust Fund derived from the
amendments to ss. 201.15 and 319.32, Florida Statutes, made by
this act and deposited into the trust fund pursuant to ss.
201.15 and 339.0801, Florida Statutes, shall be used by the
department to fund the programs as specified in this section.

Section 34. Paragraph (h) is added to subsection (2) of
section 381.402, Florida Statutes, and paragraph (b) of
subsection (3) of that section is amended, to read:

381.402 Florida Reimbursement Assistance for Medical
Education Program.—

(2) The following licensed or certified health care
practitioners are eligible to participate in the program:

(h) Medical doctors or doctors of osteopathic medicine who
are board certified or board eligible in emergency medicine and
employed by or

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

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete lines 268 - 271



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157 and insert:
158 assistance; requiring the department to give priority
159 to counties located either wholly or partially within
160 the Everglades Agricultural Area and which request a
161 specified percentage of project costs for eligible
162 projects; specifying a limitation on such requests;
163 providing for future expiration; amending s. 339.2818,
164 F.S.;