



LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
02/04/2026	.	
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The Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development (McClain) recommended the following:

1 **Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

2
3 Delete lines 30 - 62

4 and insert:

5 municipality or an independent special district that provides
6 water and wastewater services within a rural area of opportunity
7 as that term is defined in s. 288.0656(2), a provision allowing
8 the agency to provide for the payment of invoices to the county,
9 municipality, or rural area of opportunity as that term is
10 defined in s. 288.0656(2), or special district, for verified and



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11 eligible performance that has been completed in accordance with
12 the terms and conditions set forth in the agreement. This
13 provision is included to alleviate the financial hardships that
14 such certain rural counties, and municipalities, or special
15 districts encounter when administering agreements, and must be
16 exercised by the agency if when a county, or municipality, or
17 special district whose geographic area, in whole or in part, is
18 located in such county or municipality or an independent special
19 district that provides water and wastewater services within a
20 rural area of opportunity as that term is defined in s.
21 288.0656(2), demonstrates financial hardship, to the extent that
22 federal or state law, rule, or other regulation allows such
23 payments. This paragraph may not be construed to alter or limit
24 any other provisions of federal or state law, rule, or other
25 regulation.

26 Section 2. Paragraph (e) of subsection (2) of section
27 288.0656, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

28 288.0656 Rural Economic Development Initiative.—

29 (2) As used in this section, the term:

30 (e) "Rural community" means:

31 1. A county with a population of 75,000 or fewer.

32 2. A county with a population of 125,000 or fewer which is
33 contiguous to a county with a population of 75,000 or fewer.

34 3. A municipality or special district within a county
35 described in subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2.

36 4. An unincorporated federal enterprise community or an
37 incorporated rural city with a population of 25,000 or fewer and
38 an employment base focused on traditional agricultural or
39 resource-based industries, located in a county not defined as



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40 rural, which has at least three or more of the economic distress
41 factors identified in paragraph (c) and verified by the
42 department.

43 5. An independent special district that provides water and
44 wastewater services within a rural area of opportunity.

45

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

47 And the title is amended as follows:

48 Delete lines 5 - 10

49 and insert:

50 subrecipients to include specified special districts
51 as an entity to which such agency may provide for the
52 payment of invoices under specified circumstances;
53 providing construction; amending s. 288.0656, F.S.;
54 revising the definition of "rural community" to
55 include specified special districts; providing an