



451338

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
02/04/2026	.	
	.	
	.	
	.	

---

The Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development (McClain) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete lines 30 - 62  
and insert:  
municipality or an independent special district that provides  
water and wastewater services within a rural area of opportunity  
as that term is defined in s. 288.0656(2), a provision allowing  
the agency to provide for the payment of invoices to the county,  
municipality, ~~or~~ rural area of opportunity as that term is  
defined in s. 288.0656(2), or special district, for verified and



451338

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

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

288.0656 Rural Economic Development Initiative.—

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

(e) "Rural community" means:

1. A county with a population of 75,000 or fewer.
2. A county with a population of 125,000 or fewer which is contiguous to a county with a population of 75,000 or fewer.
3. A municipality or special district within a county described in subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2.
4. An unincorporated federal enterprise community or an incorporated rural city with a population of 25,000 or fewer and an employment base focused on traditional agricultural or resource-based industries, located in a county not defined as



451338

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

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

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

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete lines 5 - 10  
and insert:

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