

By Senator Mitchell

4-1144-99

See HB

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to counties; authorizing the
Department of Community Affairs to establish a
grant program to assist rural counties in
financing studies regarding the establishment
of multiple service taxing or benefit units;
providing for rules; providing an effective
date.

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

Section 1. Establishment of multiple service taxing or benefit units; grants to rural counties.--

(1) As used in this section, "rural county" means a county with a population of 75,000 or fewer persons, determined pursuant to section 186.901, Florida Statutes.

(2) Subject to legislative appropriation, the Department of Community Affairs shall establish a grant program to assist any rural county in making a determination whether to establish a multiple service taxing or benefit unit as authorized by section 125.01, Florida Statutes. Under this program, any rural county that is considering the establishment of a multiple service taxing or benefit unit and that wishes to conduct a study to determine the necessity for and advisability of establishing such a unit may apply to the department for a grant to assist in financing the study. If the application is approved by the department, the department may award a grant to the county in an amount equal to 75 percent of the cost of the study, if the county agrees to finance 25 percent of the cost of the study itself. A copy of

1 the study shall be submitted to the department within 30 days
2 after it is completed.

3 (3) The department shall establish an application form
4 and application procedures and requirements by rule pursuant
5 to chapter 120, Florida Statutes.

6 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
7 law.

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

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Authorizes the Department of Community Affairs to establish a grant program to assist rural counties having a population of 75,000 or less in financing a study to determine whether to establish a multiple service taxing or benefit unit. A grant would be awarded to finance 75 percent of the cost of such a study, if the county agrees to pay for 25 percent of such cost.