

# SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

BILL: CS/SB 2276

SPONSOR: Senate Agriculture and Consumer Services Committee and Senator Lawson

SUBJECT: Agriculture Education and Promotion Facilities

DATE: March 5, 2002

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Weidenbenner	Poole	AG	Favorable/CS
2.			CA	
3.			AGG	
4.			AP	
5.				
6.				

## I. Summary:

This bill designates the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) as the state agency responsible for developing rules and processing applications from local government units for the funding of agriculture education and promotion facilities. It defines an agriculture education and promotion facility and sets forth criteria that must be met to qualify for funding.

The bill establishes guidelines which DACS is to follow in reviewing and certifying fund requests. It sets forth criteria that is to be used to competitively evaluate applications if more than three are received. It also places restrictions on how funds can and cannot be used and spells out that all funding is subject to the amount provided by the Legislature in the General Appropriations Act for the program. October 1 is the annual cutoff date for submitting applications.

This bill creates section 288.1175 of the Florida Statutes.

## II. Present Situation:

Part I, Chapter 288, Florida Statutes contains general provisions regarding programs concerning economic development activities. Some of these programs set forth definitions, procedures, and requirements that must be met before any funding is provided for a specific project.

DACS, through its Division of Marketing and Development (division) receives all community budget requests for entry into the department's budget. Each request is evaluated against established minimum project criteria and then processed for approval and inclusion in the budget. According to the division, renovation of a facility or completion of a project is considered but funding is not provided for new construction. When a local project is funded by the Legislature, the division administers the disbursement of funds for these contracts including

verification of the grantee's compliance with the various provisions of the contract. The division inspects each of the grantee's projects for visual verification of compliance with the contract's scope of work.

A unit of local government is not able to be certified to obtain funding to construct a new "agriculture promotion facility" under present circumstances.

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

**Section 1.** Creates section 288.1175, F.S., as follows:

Subsection (1) designates DACS as the state agency responsible for screening applications and certifying applicants for state funding as an agriculture education and promotion facility.

Subsection (2) directs DACS to develop rules for receiving and processing applications.

Subsection (3) defines "agriculture education and promotion facility" as an exhibition hall, arena, civic center, exposition center, or other capital project or facility which can be used for exhibitions, demonstrations, trade shows, classrooms, civic events, and other purposes that promote agriculture, horticulture, livestock, equestrian, and other resources of the state and educate the residents as to these resources.

Subsection (4) sets forth the following criteria that must be present to qualify as an agriculture education and promotion facility under this section:

- (a). A local government unit as defined in s. 218.369, F.S., or a fair association as defined in s. 616.001(9), F.S., must have overall responsibility for the facility or hold title to the property on which the facility is located.
- (b). Applicant must have projections that show the facility will serve more than 25,000 visitors annually.
- (c). The municipality or county in which the facility is located must have certified by resolution after a public hearing that the facility will serve a public purpose.
- (d). Applicant must show it has the ability to provide 40 percent of the costs of the facility. The value of land and existing improvements count toward the 40 percent threshold.

Subsection (5) sets forth the following criteria that DACS shall use in evaluating applications if more than three are received:

- (a). Intended use with priority given to construction of a new facility.
- (b). Priority given to the largest percentage of local matching funds.

(c). Facility is located in a brownfield site, a rural enterprise zone, an agriculturally depressed area, or a redevelopment area, all as described in applicable Florida Statutes or a county that has lost its agricultural land to environmental restoration projects.

(d). Priority given to the largest percentage of increased exhibition, arena, or civic center space within the jurisdictional limits of the local government in which the facility is to be located.

(e). The historic record of the applicant in promoting agriculture and agriculture education.

(f). Highest projection of paid attendance and proposed effect on local economy.

(g). Priority given to a facility closer in proximity to an Institute of Food and Agricultural Services (IFAS) facility.

Subsection (6) prohibits the funds from being used to develop or subsidize private facilities unless owned by a fair association.

Subsection (7) mandates that the public purposes for which funds can be used are restricted to planning, design, construction, renovation of, or paying for an agriculture-education and promotion facility.

Subsection (8) requires that applications be submitted by October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. DACS cannot recommend funding for less than the amount requested and all funding is subject to the amount provided by the Legislature in the General Appropriations Act.

**Section 2** provides that this act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

#### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

#### **V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:**

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

**B. Private Sector Impact:**

None.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

The bill does not provide a funding source.

DACS estimates that two positions would be needed to perform its duties at a cost of \$111,055 for FY 2002-03, \$108,157 for FY 2003-04, and \$110,631 for FY 2004-05.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Amendments:**

None.

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This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.

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