

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES LOCAL BILL STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: CS/HB 1627 Hardee County Economic Development Authority, Hardee County
SPONSOR(S): Military & Local Affairs Policy Committee and Troutman
TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:**

	REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1)	Military & Local Affairs Policy Committee	14 Y, 0 N, As CS	Tecler	Hoagland
2)				
3)				
4)				
5)				

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The Hardee County Economic Development Authority (the Authority) was created in 2004 by chapter 2004-394, Laws of Florida, in accordance with s. 211.3103(3)(b)3., F.S. The Authority solicits, ranks, and funds projects that provide economic development opportunities and infrastructure within the geographic boundaries of Hardee County.

The bill amends Section 1 and Section 7 in chapter 2004-394, L.O.F. The bill provides the Hardee County Economic Development Authority with greater flexibility in funding projects and strikes a provision requiring equitable geographic and demographic distribution of funds. Further, the bill updates references in the Authority's charter to Florida Statutes sections that have changed since 2004.

The bill will take effect upon becoming law.

HOUSE PRINCIPLES

Members are encouraged to evaluate proposed legislation in light of the following guiding principles of the House of Representatives

- Balance the state budget.
- Create a legal and regulatory environment that fosters economic growth and job creation.
- Lower the tax burden on families and businesses.
- Reverse or restrain the growth of government.
- Promote public safety.
- Promote educational accountability, excellence, and choice.
- Foster respect for the family and for innocent human life.
- Protect Florida's natural beauty.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present Situation

The Hardee County Economic Development Authority (the Authority) was created in 2004 by chapter 2004-394, Laws of Florida, in accordance with s. 211.3103(3)(b)3., F.S.¹ The Authority solicits, ranks, and funds projects that provide economic development opportunities and infrastructure within the geographic boundaries of Hardee County.

Located in a county designated as a Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern, the Authority is eligible for a portion of the revenues collected through an excise tax on locally mined phosphate rock. The criteria for evaluating grants-in-aid applicants and dispersing grant-in-aid funds are prescribed in law.

The Authority is administered by a governing board of nine members serving staggered 3-year terms. Chapter 2006-349 amended chapter 2004-394, L.O.F., and revised the membership of the Authority by removing the Secretary of the Florida Department of Community Affairs and replaced the member of the Authority with the director of the Agency for Workforce Innovation.

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill amends section 1 and section 7 in chapter 2004-394, L.O.F. The bill provides the Hardee County Economic Development Authority with greater flexibility in funding projects by striking **“and”** and inserting **“or”** in **“fund projects that provide economic development opportunities and infrastructure”**. This bill also strikes a provision requiring equitable geographic and demographic distribution of funds. Further, the bill updates references in the Authority's charter to Florida Statutes sections that have changed since 2004.

The bill will take effect upon becoming law.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. The bill amends subsection (2) of section 1 and strikes a provision in paragraph (e) 10 of subsection (2) of section 7 in chapter 2004-394, L.O.F., to provide greater funding flexibility to the Authority.

¹ This reference was changed to 211.3103(2)(b)3, F.S., by s. 2, ch. 2008-150, L.O.F.

Section 2. The bill will take effect upon becoming law.

II. NOTICE/REFERENDUM AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

A. NOTICE PUBLISHED? Yes ☒ No ☐

IF YES, WHEN? February 4, 2010

WHERE? *The Herald Advocate*

B. REFERENDUM(S) REQUIRED? Yes ☐ No ☒

IF YES, WHEN?

C. LOCAL BILL CERTIFICATION FILED? Yes, attached ☒ No ☐

D. ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT FILED? Yes, attached ☒ No ☐

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

The notice incorrectly cites that HB1627 will amend Chapter 2006-349, Laws of Florida. However, this error does not appear to affect the substance of the notice.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

On March 17, 2010, the Military and Local Affairs Policy Committee adopted an amendment, which:

- Corrects a Florida Statutes cross reference that is in the charter of the Hardee County Economic Development Authority.

The bill was reported favorably and the analysis has been updated to reflect the committee substitute.