

By Senator Abruzzo

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to municipal road projects; providing  
3       a short title; creating the Disadvantaged Cities Road  
4       Assistance Program within the Department of  
5       Transportation to provide funding for certain road  
6       projects; defining the term "disadvantaged city";  
7       providing criteria for selection of municipalities to  
8       receive funding; authorizing the department to  
9       administer contracts on behalf of a municipality;  
10      requiring funded projects to be included in the  
11      department's work program; providing an effective  
12      date.

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

16       Section 1. Disadvantaged cities road improvement.—

17       (1) This section may be cited as the "Disadvantaged Cities  
18 Road Improvement Act."

19       (2) The Legislature recognizes that it is in the public  
20 interest to provide a source of funding for disadvantaged cities  
21 to resurface or reconstruct municipal roads. The Legislature  
22 finds that investment in disadvantaged cities that meet the  
23 criteria in this section has a high probability of creating  
24 jobs, increasing economic activity, improving safety, and  
25 increasing property values to assist disadvantaged cities to  
26 achieve and maintain economic sustainability.

27       (3) There is created the Disadvantaged Cities Road  
28 Assistance Program within the Department of Transportation. The  
29 purpose of the program is to assist disadvantaged municipal

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30 governments in resurfacing or reconstructing municipal roads.

31 (4) As used in this section, the term "disadvantaged city"  
32 means a municipality:

33 (a) That has a population of 40,000 or less according to  
34 the most recent federal census;

35 (b) With at least 25 percent of its population below the  
36 poverty level; and

37 (c) That has a combined millage rate exceeding 8.5 mills in  
38 its most recent fiscal year.

39 (5) Beginning with fiscal year 2014-2015, up to \$25 million  
40 annually from the State Transportation Trust Fund may be used  
41 for the purposes of funding the Disadvantaged Cities Road  
42 Assistance Program.

43 (6) Disadvantaged cities may compete for funds that have  
44 been designated for the program for resurfacing or  
45 reconstruction projects on roads that were part of the municipal  
46 road system on January 1, 2010. Capacity improvements on  
47 municipal roads are not eligible for funding under the program.

48 (a) In determining a municipality's eligibility for funds  
49 under the program, the department may consider whether the  
50 municipality has attempted to keep its roads in satisfactory  
51 condition. The department may also consider the extent to which  
52 the municipality has offered to provide a match of local funds  
53 for the state funds provided under the program. To receive funds  
54 under the program, a municipality must provide at least 25  
55 percent of the total project cost.

56 (b) The following criteria must be used to prioritize road  
57 projects for funding:

58 1. The primary criteria are:

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59           a. The physical condition of the road as measured by the  
60 department.

61           b. Whether the road is to be resurfaced or reconstructed as  
62 part of a municipality's comprehensive resurfacing or  
63 reconstruction of the road, including whether the municipality  
64 will contemporaneously install or repair utilities related to  
65 the road, including water, sewer, drainage, or sidewalks.

66           2. The secondary criteria are:

67           a. Whether the road is used as an evacuation route or leads  
68 to an evacuation route.

69           b. Whether the road is within a 1-mile radius of a school.

70           (7) The Department of Transportation may administer  
71 contracts on behalf of a municipality selected to receive  
72 funding for a project under this section. All projects funded  
73 under this section shall be included in the department's work  
74 program.

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