



625206

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
	.	
	.	
Floor: 1/AD/2R	.	Floor: C
03/06/2026 03:58 PM	.	03/12/2026 02:12 PM
	.	

---

Senator McClain moved the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete everything after the enacting clause  
and insert:

Section 1. Paragraph (h) of subsection (1) of section  
215.971, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

215.971 Agreements funded with federal or state  
assistance.—

(1) An agency agreement that provides state financial  
assistance to a recipient or subrecipient, as those terms are  
defined in s. 215.97, or that provides federal financial



625206

12 assistance to a subrecipient, as defined by applicable United  
13 States Office of Management and Budget circulars, must include  
14 all of the following:

15 (h) If the agency agreement provides federal or state  
16 financial assistance to a county or municipality that is a rural  
17 community or rural area of opportunity as those terms are  
18 defined in s. 288.0656(2) or a special district located entirely  
19 within such county or municipality or an independent special  
20 district that provides water and wastewater services within a  
21 rural area of opportunity as defined in s. 288.0656(2), a  
22 provision allowing the agency to provide for the payment of  
23 invoices to such ~~the~~ county, municipality, or special district  
24 ~~rural area of opportunity as that term is defined in s.~~  
25 ~~288.0656(2),~~ for verified and eligible performance that has been  
26 completed in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth  
27 in the agreement. The provision is not intended to require  
28 reimbursement to such county, municipality, or special district  
29 for invoices paid, but to allow the agency to provide for the  
30 payment of invoices due. The agency shall expedite payment  
31 requests in order to facilitate the timely payment of invoices  
32 received by such county, municipality, or special district. This  
33 provision is included to alleviate the financial hardships that  
34 such ~~certain rural~~ counties, ~~and~~ municipalities, or special  
35 districts encounter when administering agreements, and must be  
36 exercised by the agency if when a county, ~~or~~ municipality, or  
37 special district located entirely within such county or  
38 municipality or an independent special district that provides  
39 water and wastewater services within a rural area of  
40 opportunity, as defined in s. 288.0656(2), demonstrates



625206

41 financial hardship, to the extent that federal or state law,  
42 rule, or other regulation allows such payments. This paragraph  
43 may not be construed to alter or limit any other provisions of  
44 federal or state law, rule, or other regulation.

45 Section 2. Paragraph (e) of subsection (2) of section  
46 288.0656, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

47 288.0656 Rural Economic Development Initiative.—

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

49 (e) "Rural community" means:

50 1. A county with a population of 75,000 or fewer.

51 2. A county with a population of 125,000 or fewer which is  
52 contiguous to a county with a population of 75,000 or fewer.

53 3. A municipality or special district within a county  
54 described in subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2.

55 4. An unincorporated federal enterprise community or an  
56 incorporated rural city with a population of 25,000 or fewer and  
57 an employment base focused on traditional agricultural or  
58 resource-based industries, located in a county not defined as  
59 rural, which has at least three or more of the economic distress  
60 factors identified in paragraph (c) and verified by the  
61 department.

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

64  
65 For purposes of this paragraph, population shall be determined  
66 in accordance with the most recent official estimate pursuant to  
67 s. 186.901.

68 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

69



625206

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

71 And the title is amended as follows:

72 Delete everything before the enacting clause

73 and insert:

74 A bill to be entitled

75 An act relating to special district funding; amending  
76 s. 215.971, F.S.; revising agency agreements that  
77 provide state financial assistance to recipients or  
78 subrecipients to include specified special districts  
79 as an entity to which such agency may provide for the  
80 payment of invoices under specified circumstances;  
81 providing construction; requiring state agencies to  
82 expedite payment requests from certain counties,  
83 municipalities, and special districts for a specified  
84 purpose; amending s. 288.0656, F.S.; revising the  
85 definition of the term "rural community" to include  
86 specified special districts; providing an effective  
87 date.