

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to ad valorem tax revenue in fiscally
3 constrained counties; creating s. 218.137, F.S.;
4 requiring the Legislature to appropriate funds for a
5 specified purpose; requiring that such funds be
6 distributed in a specified manner; requiring specified
7 counties to apply for such distribution; providing
8 requirements for application; providing a specified
9 calculation to be used to determine funding; providing
10 for a reversion of funds in specified circumstances;
11 providing a contingent effective date.

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

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15 **Section 1. Section 218.137, Florida Statutes, is created**
16 **to read:**

17 218.137 Offset for ad valorem tax revenue loss affecting
18 fiscally constrained counties.—

19 (1) Beginning in the 2027-2028 fiscal year, the
20 Legislature shall appropriate moneys to offset the reductions in
21 ad valorem tax revenue experienced by fiscally constrained
22 counties, as defined in s. 218.67(1), which occur as a direct
23 result of the implementation of the amendment to s. 3(a), Art.
24 VII of the State Constitution approved at the November 2026
25 general election. The moneys appropriated for this purpose shall

26 be distributed in January of each fiscal year among the fiscally
27 constrained counties based on each county's proportion of the
28 total reduction in ad valorem tax revenue resulting from the
29 implementation of the amendment to s. 3(a), Art. VII of the
30 State Constitution.

31 (2) On or before November 15 of each year, each fiscally
32 constrained county shall apply to the Department of Revenue to
33 participate in the distribution of the appropriation and provide
34 documentation supporting the county's estimated reduction in ad
35 valorem tax revenue in the form and manner prescribed by the
36 Department of Revenue. The documentation must include an
37 estimate of the reduction in taxable value directly attributable
38 to the amendment to s. 3(a), Art. VII of the State Constitution
39 approved at the November 2026 general election for all county
40 taxing jurisdictions within the county and must be prepared by
41 the property appraiser in each fiscally constrained county. The
42 documentation must also include the county millage rates
43 applicable in all such jurisdictions for the current year and
44 the prior year, rolled-back rates determined as provided in s.
45 200.065 for each county taxing jurisdiction, and maximum millage
46 rates that could have been levied by majority vote pursuant to
47 s. 200.065(5). For purposes of this section, each fiscally
48 constrained county's reduction in ad valorem tax revenue shall
49 be calculated as 95 percent of the estimated reduction in
50 taxable value multiplied by the lesser of the 2026 applicable

51 millage rate or the applicable millage rate for each county
52 taxing jurisdiction in the current year. If a fiscally
53 constrained county fails to apply for the distribution, its
54 share shall revert to the fund from which the appropriation was
55 made.

56 **Section 2.** This act shall take effect January 1, 2027, if
57 the amendment to the State Constitution proposed by CS/HJR 1215,
58 as adopted at the 2025 Regular Session, is approved at the next
59 general election or at an earlier special election specifically
60 authorized by law for that purpose.