

By Senator DiCeglie

18-00468-26

2026854__

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to small independent special fire
3 control districts; amending s. 110.1228, F.S.;
4 defining the term "small independent special fire
5 control district"; authorizing the governing body of a
6 small independent special fire control district to
7 apply for participation in the state group health
8 insurance and prescription drug programs; revising
9 eligibility requirements to include such districts;
10 requiring the Department of Management Services to
11 conduct a certain actuarial analysis; requiring that
12 such analysis be paid for by the small independent
13 special fire control district; providing that if such
14 a district issued a request for proposals within a
15 specified timeframe, such request satisfies specified
16 requirements; requiring the department to conduct an
17 actuarial analysis by a specified date under certain
18 conditions; providing an effective date.

19
20 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

21
22 Section 1. Section 110.1228, Florida Statutes, is amended
23 to read:

24 110.1228 Participation by small counties, small
25 municipalities, ~~and~~ district school boards located in small
26 counties, and small independent special fire control districts.-

27 (1) As used in this section, the term:

28 (a) "District school board" means a district school board
29 located in a small county or a district school board that

18-00468-26

2026854__

receives funding pursuant to s. 1011.62(1)(f).

(b) "Small county" means a county that has a population of 100,000 or fewer according to the most recent decennial census.

(c) "Small independent special fire control district" means an independent special fire control district as defined in s. 191.003 which has fewer than 100 employees and is located within a county in which there is a countywide emergency medical services authority created by special act.

(d) "Small municipality" means an incorporated municipality that has a population of 12,500 or fewer according to the most recent decennial census.

~~(e) "Small county" means a county that has a population of 100,000 or fewer according to the most recent decennial census.~~

(2) The governing body of a small county, ~~or~~ small municipality, ~~or~~ a district school board, or small independent special fire control district may apply for participation in the state group health insurance program authorized in s. 110.123 and the prescription drug coverage program authorized by s. 110.12315 by submitting an application along with a \$500 nonrefundable fee to the department.

(3) Any costs or savings to the state group health insurance program or the prescription drug coverage program resulting from such participation must ~~shall~~ be passed on to the local government participants and their employees. Such costs or savings must ~~shall~~ be delineated based on the impact to the state, state officers and employees, and local government employers and their employees.

(4) As a prerequisite to the adoption of an ordinance or resolution for participation in the state group health insurance

18-00468-26

2026854__

59 program and prescription drug coverage program, a small county,
60 small municipality, ~~or~~ district school board, or small
61 independent special fire control district shall issue a request
62 for proposals to provide health insurance and prescription drug
63 coverage. Such request for proposals must ~~shall~~ seek coverages
64 equivalent to those offered currently by the small county, small
65 municipality, ~~or~~ district school board, or small independent
66 special fire control district and coverages equivalent to the
67 state group health insurance program and prescription drug
68 coverage program. Such request for proposals must provide an
69 opportunity for the receipt of competitive proposals from all
70 interested parties without restriction. The small county, small
71 municipality, ~~and~~ district school board, and small independent
72 special fire control district shall review and consider all
73 responsive proposals before ~~prior to~~ the adoption of any
74 ordinance or resolution for participation in the state group
75 health insurance program and prescription drug coverage program.

76 (5) If the department determines that a small county, small
77 municipality, ~~or~~ district school board, or small independent
78 special fire control district is eligible to enroll, the small
79 county, small municipality, ~~or~~ district school board, or small
80 independent special fire control district must agree to the
81 following terms and conditions:

82 (a) The minimum enrollment or contractual period will be 3
83 years.

84 (b) The small county, small municipality, ~~or~~ district
85 school board, or small independent special fire control district
86 must pay to the department an initial administrative fee of not
87 less than \$2.61 per enrollee per month, or such other amount

18-00468-26

2026854__

established annually to fully reimburse the department for its costs.

(c) Termination of participation of a small county, small municipality, ~~or~~ district school board, or small independent special fire control district requires written notice 1 year before the termination date.

(d) If participation is terminated, a small county, small municipality, ~~or~~ district school board, or small independent special fire control district may not reapply for participation for a period of 2 years.

(e) Small counties, small municipalities, ~~and~~ district school boards, and small independent special fire control districts shall reimburse the state for 100 percent of its costs, including administrative costs.

(f) If a small county, small municipality, ~~or~~ district school board, or small independent special fire control district employer fails to make the payments required by this section to fully reimburse the state, the Department of Revenue or the Department of Financial Services shall, upon the request of the Department of Management Services, deduct the amount owed by the employer from any funds not pledged to bond debt service satisfaction that are to be distributed by it to the small county, small municipality, ~~or~~ district school board, or small independent special fire control district. The amounts so deducted must ~~shall~~ be transferred to the Department of Management Services for further distribution to the trust funds in accordance with this chapter.

(g) The small county, small municipality, ~~or~~ district school board, or small independent special fire control district

18-00468-26

2026854__

shall furnish the department any information requested by the department which the department considers necessary to administer the state group health insurance program and the prescription drug coverage program.

(h) The small county, small municipality, ~~or~~ district school board, or small independent special fire control district shall adopt the state's eligibility rules.

(i) The small county, small municipality, ~~or~~ district school board, or small independent special fire control district may not participate in the state's cafeteria plan that allows for pretax treatment of premium contributions. If pretax treatment is desirable for employees of these participating employers, each employee of a participating employer shall execute a salary reduction agreement with that employer, and each participating employer shall establish its own cafeteria plan.

(j) The small county, small municipality, ~~or~~ district school board, or small independent special fire control district shall pay monthly premiums in amounts sufficient to cover claims costs, department administrative costs, and third-party administrative costs and provide for adequate reserves and cash flow by contributing 3 months' premiums and costs in advance of the coverage effective date.

(6) If a small independent special fire control district elects to participate in the state group health insurance program authorized in s. 110.123 and the prescription drug program authorized by s. 110.12315, the department must conduct an actuarial analysis to determine the small independent special fire control district's health insurance premiums. Such analysis

18-00468-26

2026854__

146 must be paid for by the small independent special fire control
147 district.

148 (7) The provisions of ss. 624.436-624.446 do not apply to
149 the State Group Insurance Program or to this section.

150 Section 2. Due to the potential cost savings to small
151 independent special fire control districts which may be realized
152 if such districts participate in open enrollment for the 2026-
153 2027 fiscal year for the state group health insurance and
154 prescription drug programs, a request for proposals to provide
155 health insurance and prescription drug coverage issued by such
156 district no more than 1 year before the effective date of this
157 act, satisfies the requirements of s. 110.1228(4), Florida
158 Statutes, for such district.

159 Section 3. To allow small independent special fire control
160 districts to participate in the 2026-2027 fiscal year open
161 enrollment for the state group health insurance program and
162 prescription drug program, the Department of Management Services
163 must conduct the applicable actuarial analysis for an eligible
164 small independent special fire control district no later than
165 June 1, 2026, if such district notifies the department of its
166 choice to participate in the programs no later than May 5, 2026.

167 Section 4. This act shall take effect May 1, 2026.