

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 2178

An act relating to county emergency medical service assessments; creating s. 125.271, F.S.; defining the term “county” as used in this section; providing for permanent qualification for funding emergency medical services through a special assessment levied as described in this act; providing construction; providing for the ratification and validation of certain special assessments levied before the effective date of this act; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 125.271, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

125.271 Emergency medical services; county emergency medical service assessments.—

(1) As used in this section, the term “county” means:

(a) A county that is within a rural area of critical economic concern as designated by the Governor pursuant to s. 288.0656;

(b) A small county having a population of 75,000 or fewer on the effective date of this act which has levied at least 10 mills of ad valorem tax for the previous fiscal year; or

(c) A county that adopted an ordinance authorizing the imposition of an assessment for emergency medical services prior to January 1, 2002.

Once a county has qualified under this subsection, it always retains the qualification.

(2) A county may fund the costs of emergency medical services through the levy of a special assessment that apportions the cost among the property based on a reasonable methodology that charges a parcel in proportion to its benefits.

(3) The authorization provided in this section shall be construed to be general law authorization pursuant to ss. 1 and 9 of Art. VII of the State Constitution.

(4) All special assessments for emergency medical services levied by a county prior to the effective date of this section are ratified and validated in all respects if they would have been valid had this section been in effect at the time they were levied; however, this subsection shall not validate assessments in counties with litigation challenging the validity of an assessment pending on January 1, 2002.

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

Approved by the Governor April 16, 2002.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 16, 2002.