

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 82

An act relating to state aid to public libraries; amending s. 257.172, F.S.; revising grant eligibility criteria for multicounty libraries; revising determination for and amount of base grants; amending s. 257.18, F.S.; revising eligibility criteria, calculation, and determination for equalization grants; limiting grants and grant amounts under specified conditions; amending s. 257.22, F.S.; removing a requirement for issuance of warrants to political subdivisions eligible for certain funding; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 257.172, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

257.172 Multicounty library grants.—

(1) The administrative unit of a multicounty library that serves a population of 50,000 or more and serves two, or has three or more counties, at least one of which qualifies for an equalization grant, is eligible for an annual grant from the state. The grant funds are to be used for the support and extension of library service in participating counties. The grant must be computed by the division on a state matching basis up to \$1 million in local expenditures by all participating counties for operation and maintenance of a library during the second preceding year. The administrative unit of a multicounty library with:

(a) Two participating counties is eligible for a grant equal to 5 cents on each local dollar of expenditure.

(b) Three participating counties is eligible for a grant equal to 10 cents on each local dollar of expenditure.

(c) Four participating counties is eligible for a grant equal to 15 cents on each local dollar of expenditure.

(d) Five participating counties is eligible for a grant equal to 20 cents on each local dollar of expenditure.

(e) Six or more participating counties is eligible for a grant equal to 25 cents on each local dollar of expenditure.

(2) In addition, to support multicounty library service, the administrative unit of a multicounty library with:

(a) Two participating counties is eligible to receive a base grant of \$50,000, effective July 1, 2008.

(b) Three or more participating counties is eligible to receive a base grant of a minimum of \$250,000. Such amount shall be increased to \$350,000

~~when the appropriation from state funds for operating, multicounty, and equalization grants is at least 3 percent more than the appropriation from state funds for those grants for fiscal year 2007-2008 to support multicounty library service. That amount may be adjusted by the division based on the percentage change in the state and local government price deflator for purchases of goods and services, all items, 1983 equals 100, or successor reports for the preceding calendar year as initially reported by the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the United States Department of Commerce, as certified by the Florida Consensus Estimating Conference.~~

Section 2. Section 257.18, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

257.18 Equalization grants.—

(1) Any county qualifying for an operating grant is eligible to receive an equalization grant if it meets the following criteria:

(a) The county was eligible for an equalization grant in fiscal year 2007-2008.

(b) ~~When~~ The value of 1 mill adjusted to reflect the average statewide level of assessment is below the median amount for all counties in the state and the per capita local funds expended for library support during the second preceding year is below the average for all counties.

(c) The county operating millage subject to the 10-mill cap is equal to or above the average for all counties. If the county does not meet this millage requirement, the per capita income for the county must be equal to or below the average for all counties.

(d) The county has been eligible for an equalization grant each fiscal year since fiscal year 2007-2008.

(2) If a county fails to meet the eligibility criteria for an equalization grant in any one year, the county shall be notified that its equalization grant funding will be phased out over a 3-year period as follows:

(a) In the first year, the county shall receive the grant amount for which it qualified the previous year.

(b) In the second year, the county shall receive two-thirds of the grant amount it received under paragraph (a).

(c) In the third year, the county shall receive one-third of the grant amount it received under paragraph (a).

(d) In subsequent years, the county shall not be eligible to receive an equalization grant.

(3) An equalization grant to an eligible county is calculated in the following manner:

(a) The equalization factor is computed by subtracting the value of 1 mill adjusted to reflect the average statewide level of assessment for each county

from the average adjusted value of 1 mill for all counties and then dividing that amount by the average adjusted value of 1 mill for all counties.

(b) An equalization grant is computed by multiplying the equalization factor times the total local funds expended for library support by that county during the second preceding year and adding that amount to the actual total local funds expended for library support by that county during the second preceding year. The result is the adjusted value for the local funds expended for library service. The amount of the equalization grant is equal to 25 cents of the adjusted value of local funds expended for library service.

(c)(2) When the adjusted mill equivalent of actual local funds expended for library support by the county during the second preceding year is above the statewide average adjusted mill equivalent of actual local funds expended by all counties receiving operating grants, the amount of the equalization grant is equal to 50 cents of the adjusted value of local funds expended for library service.

(4) A county may not receive an equalization grant that is equal to more than 10 percent of the total amount required to fund equalization grants to all eligible counties.

(5)(3) The Division of Library and Information Services shall calculate equalization grants based on the amount of local funds expended for library service the second preceding year as certified by the appropriate county officials and information on the level of assessment of property in each county, and the taxable value of property in each county, the county operating millage subject to the 10-mill cap, and the per capita income as reported by the state agency authorized by law, which shall certify the results of such determination to the division.

(6)(4) Equalization grants may not exceed 15 percent of the amount appropriated for operating, multicounty, and equalization grants or \$8,877,057, whichever is greater. Any reductions in equalization grants necessary to meet this requirement must be applied to all equalization grants on a prorated basis. This includes grants subject to the 10-percent cap or grants in the phase-out period. If the total appropriation for operating, multicounty, and equalization grants is less than \$31,999,233 For the purposes of this section, s. 257.21 applies does not apply.

Section 3. Section 257.22, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

257.22 Division of Library and Information Services; allocation of funds.—Any moneys that may be appropriated for use by a county, a municipality, a special district, or a special tax district for the maintenance of a library or library service shall be administered and allocated by the Division of Library and Information Services in the manner prescribed by law. On or before December 1 of each year, the division shall certify to the Chief Financial Officer the amount to be paid to each county, municipality, special district, or special tax district, ~~and the Chief Financial Officer shall issue warrants to the eligible political subdivisions.~~

Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.

Approved by the Governor June 17, 2008.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 17, 2008.