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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to the Urban Infill and Redevelopment Assistance Grant Program; creating s. 163.2524, F.S.; establishing the program; providing for grants to counties and municipalities with urban infill and redevelopment areas; authorizing transfer of unused funds between grant categories under the program; requiring the Department of Economic Opportunity to administer the program; requiring the department to adopt rules establishing grant review criteria; amending ss. 163.065, 163.2511, and 163.2514, F.S.; conforming cross-references; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 163.2524, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

163.2524 Grant program.-An Urban Infill and Redevelopment Assistance Grant Program is created for local governments. A local government may allocate grant money to special districts, including community redevelopment agencies, and nonprofit community development organizations to implement projects consistent with an adopted urban infill and redevelopment plan or plan employed in lieu thereof. Thirty percent of the general revenue appropriated for this program shall be available for planning grants to be used by local governments for the development of an urban infill and redevelopment plan, including

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29 community participation processes for the plan. Sixty percent of
30 the general revenue appropriated for this program shall be
31 available for fifty/fifty matching grants for implementing urban
32 infill and redevelopment projects that further the objectives
33 set forth in the local government's adopted urban infill and
34 redevelopment plan or plan employed in lieu thereof. The
35 remaining 10 percent of the revenue must be used for outright
36 grants for implementing projects requiring an expenditure of
37 less than \$50,000. If the volume of fundable applications under
38 any of the allocations specified in this section does not fully
39 obligate the amount of the allocation, the Department of
40 Economic Opportunity may transfer the unused balance to the
41 category having the highest dollar value of applications
42 eligible but unfunded. However, in no event may the percentage
43 of dollars allocated to outright grants for implementing
44 projects exceed 20 percent in any given fiscal year. Projects
45 that provide employment opportunities for clients of the
46 temporary cash assistance program and projects within urban
47 infill and redevelopment areas that include a community
48 redevelopment area, Florida Main Street program, Front Porch
49 Florida Community, sustainable community, enterprise zone,
50 federal enterprise zone, enterprise community, or neighborhood
51 improvement district must be given an elevated priority in the
52 scoring of competing grant applications. The Department of
53 Economic Opportunity shall administer the grant program. The
54 Department of Economic Opportunity shall adopt rules
55 establishing grant review criteria consistent with this section.

56 Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section

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163.065, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

163.065 Miami River Improvement Act.—

(4) PLAN.—The Miami River Commission, working with the City of Miami and Miami-Dade County, shall consider the merits of the following:

(a) Development and adoption of an urban infill and redevelopment plan, under ss. 163.2511-163.2524 ~~163.2511-163.2520~~, which participating state and regional agencies shall review for the purposes of determining consistency with applicable law.

Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 163.2511, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

163.2511 Urban infill and redevelopment.—

(1) Sections 163.2511-163.2524 ~~163.2511-163.2520~~ may be cited as the "Growth Policy Act."

Section 4. Section 163.2514, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

163.2514 Growth Policy Act; definitions.—As used in ss. 163.2511-163.2524 ~~163.2511-163.2520~~, the term:

(1) "Local government" means any county or municipality.

(2) "Urban infill and redevelopment area" means an area or areas designated by a local government where:

(a) Public services such as water and wastewater, transportation, schools, and recreation are already available or are scheduled to be provided in an adopted 5-year schedule of capital improvements;

(b) The area, or one or more neighborhoods within the area, suffers from pervasive poverty, unemployment, and general

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85 | distress as defined by s. 290.0058;

86 | (c) The area exhibits a proportion of properties that are
87 | substandard, overcrowded, dilapidated, vacant or abandoned, or
88 | functionally obsolete which is higher than the average for the
89 | local government;

90 | (d) More than 50 percent of the area is within 1/4 mile
91 | of a transit stop, or a sufficient number of transit stops will
92 | be made available concurrent with the designation; and

93 | (e) The area includes or is adjacent to community
94 | redevelopment areas, brownfields, enterprise zones, or Main
95 | Street programs, or has been designated by the state or Federal
96 | Government as an urban redevelopment, revitalization, or infill
97 | area under empowerment zone, enterprise community, or brownfield
98 | showcase community programs or similar programs.

99 | Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.