

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to agency agreements providing  
 3           financial assistance to special districts; amending s.  
 4           215.971, F.S.; authorizing certain special districts  
 5           to include a specified provision within agency  
 6           agreements; revising the intent of such provision;  
 7           providing an effective date.  
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9   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
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11           **Section 1. Paragraph (h) of subsection (1) of section**  
 12 **215.971, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

13           215.971 Agreements funded with federal or state  
 14           assistance.—

15           (1) An agency agreement that provides state financial  
 16           assistance to a recipient or subrecipient, as those terms are  
 17           defined in s. 215.97, or that provides federal financial  
 18           assistance to a subrecipient, as defined by applicable United  
 19           States Office of Management and Budget circulars, must include  
 20           all of the following:

21           (h) If the agency agreement provides federal or state  
 22           financial assistance to a county or municipality that is a rural  
 23           community or rural area of opportunity as those terms are  
 24           defined in s. 288.0656(2), or a special district whose  
 25           geographic boundaries are contained, in whole or in part, in

26 | such county or municipality, a provision allowing the agency to  
27 | provide for the payment of invoices to the county, municipality,  
28 | special district, or rural area of opportunity as that term is  
29 | defined in s. 288.0656(2), for verified and eligible performance  
30 | that has been completed in accordance with the terms and  
31 | conditions set forth in the agreement. This provision is  
32 | included to alleviate the financial hardships that such ~~certain~~  
33 | ~~rural~~ counties, ~~and~~ municipalities, and special districts  
34 | encounter when administering agreements, and must be exercised  
35 | by the agency when a county, ~~or~~ municipality, or special  
36 | district meeting the aforementioned criteria demonstrates  
37 | financial hardship, to the extent that federal or state law,  
38 | rule, or other regulation allows such payments. This paragraph  
39 | may not be construed to alter or limit any other provisions of  
40 | federal or state law, rule, or other regulation.

41 |       **Section 2.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.