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 1                     A bill to be entitled
 2          An act relating to financial assistance for rural
 3          communities; amending s. 215.971, F.S.; requiring
 4          certain agency agreements to include a provision
 5          providing for payment of invoices by the agency;
 6          providing intent; providing construction; providing an
 7          effective date.
 8
 9    Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
10
11          Section 1.  Paragraph (h) is added to subsection (1) of
12    section 215.971, Florida Statutes, 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)  An agency agreement that provides federal or state
22    financial assistance to a county or municipality that is a rural
23    community as defined in s. 288.0656(2)(e) or is a rural area of
24    opportunity as defined in s. 288.0656 shall include a provision
25    that allows the agency to provide for the payment of invoices to
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26 | the county or municipality for verified and eligible performance
27 | that has been completed in accordance with the terms and
28 | conditions set forth in the agreement. This provision is
29 | included the alleviate the financial hardships that certain
30 | rural counties and municipalities encounter when administering
31 | agreements and shall be utilized by the agency based on
32 | demonstrated financial hardship. This paragraph may not be
33 | construed to alter or limit any other provisions of federal or
34 | state law, rule, or other regulation.
35 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.

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