

SENATE BILL 1679

By Yager

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 54, Chapter 11, Part 2 and Title 54, Chapter 4, relative to funding for bridge improvements.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Rural Bridge Relief Act of 2014."

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 54-4-507, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection (d):

(d)

(1) For purposes of this section:

(A) "Commissioner" means the state commissioner of transportation; and

(B) "Federally designated economically distressed county" means any county that meets one (1) or more of the criteria specified in Section 301(a) of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. § 3161), as determined by the commissioner.

(2) If any federally designated economically distressed county has an unexpended balance of funds that have accrued in the state treasury and that are available for the benefit of the county under this part, then the county may use the unexpended balance, in whole or in part, to provide a portion of the local government share required by subsection (b); provided, that the county shall provide at least two percent (2%) of the approved project costs from county funds or in-kind project work approved by the commissioner, or both; provided, further,

that the county shall initiate the project during fiscal years 2014-2015 or 2015-2016.

(3) This subsection is repealed on July 1, 2016.

SECTION 3. Nothing in this act shall be construed to be an appropriation of funds and no funds shall be obligated or expended pursuant to this act unless such funds are specifically appropriated by the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.