

State Blocks Local “Net-Zero” Climate Policies and Carbon Fees

HB 1217 – Rep. Berny Jacques (SB 1628 – Sen. Bryan Avila)

General Bill Summary

HB 1217 creates new state law prohibiting state and local governmental entities from adopting or implementing “net-zero” greenhouse gas emission policies. The bill establishes legislative findings that such policies, including carbon taxes, emissions caps, and carbon trading programs, may harm the state’s energy security and economic interests.

The legislation defines “net-zero policies” broadly to include any requirement or initiative intended to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to zero or to meet climate targets associated with international agreements such as the Paris Agreement.

Under the bill, governmental entities—including the state, counties, municipalities, special districts, and their agencies—are prohibited from:

- Adopting or enforcing net-zero policies in plans, ordinances, programs, or procedures.
- Using public funds to support or advance net-zero policies, including procurement preferences based solely on fuel source or carbon intensity.
- Imposing taxes, fees, penalties, or assessments related to carbon emissions, carbon content of fuels, or other greenhouse-gas-related measures.
- Establishing or participating in emissions cap or trading programs.

The bill also requires each governmental entity to annually submit an affidavit to the Department of Revenue attesting that it is complying with the statutory prohibitions.

Potential County Impact

HB 1217 significantly restricts county authority to pursue greenhouse-gas reduction policies or climate-related regulatory programs. Counties would be prohibited from adopting or enforcing local policies that aim to achieve “net-zero” emissions or otherwise regulate greenhouse gas emissions through local programs, plans, or incentives.

Potential county impacts include:

- Preemption of local climate policy: Counties would be unable to adopt net-zero targets, climate action plans with emission reduction mandates, or other policies tied to achieving net-zero emissions.
- Limitations on planning and procurement: County comprehensive plans, transportation plans, purchasing policies, and operational programs could not include requirements or preferences aimed solely at reducing carbon emissions or limiting carbon-intensive products.

- Restrictions on local revenue mechanisms: Counties would be prohibited from adopting carbon-related fees, charges, or assessments intended to reduce emissions or fund climate initiatives.
- Administrative compliance requirements: Counties must submit an annual affidavit to the Department of Revenue affirming compliance with the law.
- Program review and policy adjustments: Counties with existing climate or emissions reduction initiatives may need to review and potentially modify programs to ensure they do not conflict with the statutory prohibitions.

The fiscal impact on counties is uncertain, but the bill could require administrative review of existing programs and could limit certain policy tools counties may have considered for environmental or energy planning.

Effective Date

July 1, 2026.

Primary Statutory References

- **Creates:** s. 377.816, F.S.
- **Amends:** s. 125.01, F.S.; s. 166.021, F.S.; s. 166.201, F.S.