

Budget Transparency and Impact Fee Rules Tighten for Florida Counties

HB 1329 – Rep. Yvette Benarroch (SB 1566 – Sen. Nick DiCeglie)

General Bill Summary

CS/CS/HB 1329, titled the Local Government Financial Transparency and Accountability Act, expands transparency, reporting, and accountability requirements for counties and municipalities while significantly revising impact fee law.

The bill requires counties and municipalities to post tentative budgets at least 5 days before hearings (increased from 2 days) and retain final adopted budgets online for at least 5 years (increased from 2 years). It also mandates that tentative, adopted tentative, and final budgets be posted in downloadable formats with detailed summaries, including multi-year revenue and expenditure data, departmental spending, debt obligations, capital projects, and staffing information.

Local governments must conduct a public budget reduction workshop before final adoption, identifying strategies to reduce spending by 10 percent without affecting essential services, and publish the results or a recording online. The bill further requires quarterly employee compensation reports and annual budget development calendars to be posted online.

The bill also enhances transparency for budget amendments by requiring advance online posting and extended retention.

In addition, the bill makes significant changes to impact fee law, including requiring plan-based, localized data studies for new or increased fees, limiting fee increases, establishing stricter standards for exceeding phase-in caps, and creating a formal refund/credit process for overpayments.

Finally, the bill requires coordination between counties and municipalities on transportation impact fees through interlocal agreements and provides a default structure, including a fee reduction, if no agreement is in place.

Potential County Impact

The bill creates significant new administrative, compliance, and operational requirements for counties. Counties will need to enhance website capabilities to publish detailed, multi-year budget data in standardized, downloadable formats and maintain records for longer durations. New requirements for quarterly compensation reporting and annual budget calendars will increase ongoing reporting obligations.

The required budget reduction workshop introduces a new policy and planning exercise that may require additional staff time and coordination across departments. Expanded posting and notice requirements for budget amendments will also increase procedural workload.

Impact fee reforms may significantly affect county revenue strategies and capital planning. Counties must update methodologies to rely on recent, localized data and comply with new statutory limits on increases, including heightened procedural requirements for exceeding caps. The new refund and credit process may create additional administrative and legal considerations.

Additionally, counties may incur indirect responsibilities for municipalities without websites, including hosting required budget and amendment information. Overall, the bill is likely to have an indeterminate but potentially negative fiscal impact due to increased staffing, technology, and compliance costs.

Effective Date

January 1, 2027

Primary Statutory References

- s. 129.03, F.S.
- s. 129.06, F.S.
- s. 163.3164, F.S.
- s. 163.3180, F.S.
- s. 163.31801, F.S.
- s. 166.241, F.S.
- s. 212.055, F.S.