

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, would expand local budget transparency requirements for counties, municipalities, and special districts. For counties, tentative budgets would have to be posted at least 14 days before the public hearing and remain online at least 45 days; final budgets would have to be posted within 30 days after adoption and remain online for at least 5 years. Counties also would have to post budgets in a format similar to a PDF that lets the public review historical spending, compare revenues and expenses, and view employee salaries and certain travel expenses. In addition, at least 14 days before final budget adoption, the county would have to conduct a workshop to explore budget reductions equal to at least 10 percent compared to the previous budget without impairing essential services or legal obligations. The bill also revises county budget-amendment notice and posting rules and makes similar transparency changes for municipalities and special districts. As of the bill page's last action, the House had concurred in the Senate amendment and ordered the bill engrossed and enrolled.

Potential County Impact

For counties, the bill would create new administrative and technology obligations tied to budget publication, data formatting, and public access. Counties would need systems capable of posting budget information in searchable, downloadable formats and displaying salary, spending-trend, revenue/expense. These changes could increase staff workload, website/vendor costs, and internal coordination needs among budget, finance, HR, IT, and clerk or auditor functions. The House staff analysis states the bill would have an indeterminate negative fiscal impact on counties and municipalities tied to those new transparency and exercise requirements. The bill also could create indirect county duties for municipalities that lack their own websites, because county managers or administrators would have to post those municipal budgets or budget amendments on the county website within a reasonable time established by the county.

Effective Date

July 1, 2026

Primary Statutory References

- s. 129.03, F.S.
- s. 129.06, F.S.
- s. 166.241, F.S.
- s. 189.016, F.S.

