

Florida Bill Would Bar County DEI Programs, Policies, and Related Contract Spending

SB 1134 – Sen. Clay Yarborough (HB 1001 – Rep. Dean Black)

General Bill Summary

CS/CS/SB 1134 would create new state-law prohibitions on county and municipal actions related to “diversity, equity, and inclusion” as defined in the bill. It would bar counties and municipalities from funding, promoting, or taking official action on DEI through ordinances, resolutions, rules, regulations, programs, or policies, and it would declare existing local DEI-related ordinances, resolutions, rules, regulations, programs, and policies void. The bill also would prohibit local governments from spending any funds to create, maintain, or staff a DEI office or to employ or contract with a DEI officer. In addition, it would prohibit local funds from being used by employees, contractors, volunteers, vendors, or agents to promote DEI initiatives. The bill authorizes resident lawsuits against counties or municipalities for violations and allows courts to award declaratory and injunctive relief, damages, and costs. It also would require prospective recipients of county or municipal contracts or grants to certify that they do not and will not use local funds for DEI-related instructional requirements as described in the bill. As of March 10, 2026, the bill had passed the Senate and then passed the House.

Potential County Impact

For counties, the bill would operate as a direct state preemption in this policy area and would require review of existing county ordinances, resolutions, policies, trainings, programs, staffing structures, and contracts for compliance. Any county DEI office, DEI officer role, or county-funded DEI initiative covered by the bill would need to be eliminated or restructured by the effective date. Existing DEI-related local enactments would be void under the bill’s text. County commissioners or other county officials acting in an official capacity who violate the new section would commit misfeasance or malfeasance in office, creating potential officer-liability and removal-related concerns. Counties also could face litigation exposure because county residents would be authorized to sue for declaratory and injunctive relief, damages, and costs. Procurement and grant administration practices would likely need revision to add the required contractor/grantee certification. The Senate staff analysis states the bill could produce indeterminate local cost savings where a local government currently funds DEI programs, offices, or officers, but counties could also incur transition, compliance, contract-review, and litigation-related costs that are not quantified in the analysis.

Effective Date

January 1, 2027. The new contract-certification requirement in s. 287.139, F.S., would apply to any contract between a county or municipality and a DEI officer that is in existence on January 1, 2027, and to all other covered contracts executed or renewed after January 1, 2027.

Primary Statutory References

- s. 125.595, F.S.;
- s. 166.04971, F.S.
- s. 287.139, F.S.