TECH-03 FLORIDA PLUG-IN SOLAR ACCESS
STAFF ANALYSIS

PROPOSAL INFORMATION			
SUBMITTING COUNTY:	Alachua		
SPONSOR CONTACT:	Mary Alford, Commissioner; malford@alachuacounty.gov; 352-810-1731		
FAC COMMITTEE:	TECH	**CROSS-CLAIMS:**	
FAC STAFF:	Peter Abello	**DATE:**	October 19th 2026

This staff analysis is based on the proposal as submitted and does not reflect an adopted position of the Florida Association of Counties.

POLICY PROPOSAL:

Florida should establish a simple regulatory pathway for qualifying plug-in solar systems. A certified system that meets established electrical and safety standards and is designed for connection to a standard household electrical outlet should be treated as a household appliance rather than a conventional solar installation. This proposal is to give Florida residents the freedom to use small, certified plug-in solar systems to generate electricity for their homes without unnecessary permitting, inspections, fees or utility contracts. A bill should also explicitly prevent utilities from requiring a customer to purchase additional unnecessary equipment, enter a power generation contract, or pay a recurring fee merely because a customer owns and operates a qualifying plug in solar system.

I. SUMMARY:

Alachua County asks FAC to support legislation creating a simple regulatory pathway for small, certified plug-in solar devices that connect to a standard household outlet. The proposal would treat these devices as household appliances, allowing residents to use them without utility interconnection agreements, permits, inspections, or fees. Florida currently treats customer-owned solar as generation that must be interconnected with the utility and permitted under the Florida Building Code, and it has no separate category for plug-in devices. The proposal would exempt qualifying devices from Public Service Commission regulation and the Building Code, as well as bar utilities from imposing fees or equipment requirements.

II. PRESENT SITUATION:

Under current law, customer-owned solar is regulated as generation connected to the utility grid. Public Service Commission Rule 25-6.065, F.A.C., requires customers with systems up to 10 kilowatts to sign an interconnection agreement with their utility and provides for net metering. Solar installations must also comply with the Florida Building Code, which local building departments enforce through permits, inspections, and fees (ss. 553.73, 553.79, and 553.80, F.S.), and with the National Electrical Code, adopted through s. 553.88, F.S. Plug-in solar devices are small systems that residents can set up themselves using a standard household outlet. Florida has no separate category for these devices, so they are subject to the same permits, inspections, fees, and utility contracts as rooftop systems. Renters and association residents may also need approval from a landlord or association to use them.Florida law already protects solar access in two ways. Section 163.04, F.S., bars ordinances, deed restrictions, and association rules from prohibiting solar collectors on buildings, and s. 193.624, F.S., excludes the value of renewable energy devices from the assessed value of residential property. Neither statute specifically addresses movable plug-in devices. Other states have begun to address them directly. Utah enacted the first law exempting plug-in devices from interconnection requirements in 2025, and the submission reports that nine states have since done so.

III. EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

The proposal would establish a simple regulatory pathway for qualifying plug-in solar systems in Florida. A system would qualify if it is certified, meets established electrical and safety standards, and is designed to connect to a standard household electrical outlet. Rather than being regulated as a conventional solar installation, a qualifying system would be treated as a household appliance, like other equipment a resident plug into the wall. This change would remove the requirements that apply to customer-owned solar today. Residents would not need to sign an interconnection agreement or perform net metering with their utility under Public Service Commission rules, and they would not need to undergo local building code inspections, permitting and associated fees. A resident could purchase a certified system, plug it in, and use it to generate electricity for their home. The proposal would also limit what utilities can require of these customers. A utility could not require a customer to purchase additional equipment, enter a power generation contract, or pay a recurring fee simply because the customer owns and operates a qualifying system.

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IV. COUNTY IMPACT:

Counties could no longer require building permits, inspections, or permit fees for qualifying plug-in solar systems. Because these systems would be treated as household appliances, regulation would shift from site permitting to product certification, and systems meeting nationally recognized product and electrical safety standards would not be subject to site-specific regulation. The proposal does not eliminate regulation altogether. Qualifying systems would remain subject to applicable electrical and safety standards, and conventional solar installations would remain subject to existing permitting and inspection requirements.

Protective of Home Rule: No. Qualifying systems would be exempt from site-specific regulation and local inspection and permitting.

V. FISCAL IMPACT:

- No Revenue Estimating Conference estimate exists.

Unfunded Mandate (Art. VII, s. 18, Fla. Const.): No. The proposal requires no county expenditure and imposes nothing on municipalities or other counties.

VI. LEGISLATIVE & FAC HISTORY:

- Enacted framework: Rule 25-6.065, F.A.C. (interconnection and net metering); s. 366.91, F.S. (renewable energy policy); s. 163.04, F.S. (solar rights); s. 193.624, F.S. (assessment exclusion for renewable energy devices); and ss. 553.73, 553.79, and 553.88, F.S. (Building Code, permits, and electrical standards).
- Other states: Utah enacted the first plug-in solar exemption in 2025, and several states, including California, Hawaii, Oregon, and New Hampshire, considered similar legislation in 2026.
- Past FAC statements: N/A
- Guiding Principles coverage: N/A
- BoCC action: the submission states that BoCC approval is pending.

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