	LEGISLATIVE ACTION	
Senate		House
Comm: RCS		
03/01/2018		

The Committee on Rules (Lee) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

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Delete lines 46 - 494

and insert:

Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section 129.03, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

129.03 Preparation and adoption of budget.-

(3) The county budget officer, after tentatively ascertaining the proposed fiscal policies of the board for the next fiscal year, shall prepare and present to the board a tentative budget for the next fiscal year for each of the funds

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provided in this chapter, including all estimated receipts, taxes to be levied, and balances expected to be brought forward and all estimated expenditures, reserves, and balances to be carried over at the end of the year.

(c) The board shall hold public hearings to adopt tentative and final budgets pursuant to s. 200.065. The hearings shall be primarily for the purpose of hearing requests and complaints from the public regarding the budgets and the proposed tax levies and for explaining the budget and any proposed or adopted amendments. The tentative budget must be posted on the county's official website at least 2 days before the public hearing to consider such budget and must remain on the website for at least 45 days. The final budget must be posted on the website within 30 days after adoption and must remain on the website for at least 2 years. The tentative budgets, adopted tentative budgets, and final budgets shall be filed in the office of the county auditor as a public record. Sufficient reference in words and figures to identify the particular transactions must shall be made in the minutes of the board to record its actions with reference to the budgets.

Section 2. Paragraph (f) of subsection (2) of section 129.06, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

129.06 Execution and amendment of budget.-

- (2) The board at any time within a fiscal year may amend a budget for that year, and may within the first 60 days of a fiscal year amend the budget for the prior fiscal year, as follows:
- (f) Unless otherwise prohibited by law, if an amendment to a budget is required for a purpose not specifically authorized

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in paragraphs (a)-(e), the amendment may be authorized by resolution or ordinance of the board of county commissioners adopted following a public hearing.

- 1. The public hearing must be advertised at least 2 days, but not more than 5 days, before the date of the hearing. The advertisement must appear in a newspaper of paid general circulation and must identify the name of the taxing authority, the date, place, and time of the hearing, and the purpose of the hearing. The advertisement must also identify each budgetary fund to be amended, the source of the funds, the use of the funds, and the total amount of each fund's appropriations.
- 2. If the board amends the budget pursuant to this paragraph, the adopted amendment must be posted on the county's official website within 5 days after adoption and must remain on the website for at least 2 years.

Section 3. Subsections (3) and (5) of section 166.241, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

166.241 Fiscal years, budgets, and budget amendments.-

(3) The tentative budget must be posted on the municipality's official website at least 2 days before the budget hearing, held pursuant to s. 200.065 or other law, to consider such budget and must remain on the website for at least 45 days. The final adopted budget must be posted on the municipality's official website within 30 days after adoption and must remain on the website for at least 2 years. If the municipality does not operate an official website, the municipality must, within a reasonable period of time as established by the county or counties in which the municipality is located, transmit the tentative budget and final budget to

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the manager or administrator of such county or counties who shall post the budgets on the county's website.

(5) If the governing body of a municipality amends the budget pursuant to paragraph (4)(c), the adopted amendment must be posted on the official website of the municipality within 5 days after adoption and must remain on the website for at least 2 years. If the municipality does not operate an official website, the municipality must, within a reasonable period of time as established by the county or counties in which the municipality is located, transmit the adopted amendment to the manager or administrator of such county or counties who shall post the adopted amendment on the county's website.

Section 4. Subsection (2) of section 11.40, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 11.40 Legislative Auditing Committee.-
- (2) Following notification by the Auditor General, the Department of Financial Services, or the Division of Bond Finance of the State Board of Administration of the failure of a local governmental entity, district school board, charter school, or charter technical career center to comply with the applicable provisions within s. 11.45(5)-(7), s. 218.32(1), s. 218.38, or s. 218.503(3), or part VIII of chapter 218, the Legislative Auditing Committee may schedule a hearing to determine if the entity should be subject to further state action. If the committee determines that the entity should be subject to further state action, the committee shall:
- (a) In the case of a local governmental entity or district school board, direct the Department of Revenue and the Department of Financial Services to withhold any funds not

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pledged for bond debt service satisfaction which are payable to such entity until the entity complies with the law. The committee shall specify the date such action shall begin, and the directive must be received by the Department of Revenue and the Department of Financial Services 30 days before the date of the distribution mandated by law. The Department of Revenue and the Department of Financial Services may implement the provisions of this paragraph.

- (b) In the case of a special district created by:
- 1. A special act, notify the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the standing committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives charged with special district oversight as determined by the presiding officers of each respective chamber, the legislators who represent a portion of the geographical jurisdiction of the special district, and the Department of Economic Opportunity that the special district has failed to comply with the law. Upon receipt of notification, the Department of Economic Opportunity shall proceed pursuant to s. 189.062 or s. 189.067. If the special district remains in noncompliance after the process set forth in s. 189.0651, or if a public hearing is not held, the Legislative Auditing Committee may request the department to proceed pursuant to s. 189.067(3).
- 2. A local ordinance, notify the chair or equivalent of the local general-purpose government pursuant to s. 189.0652 and the Department of Economic Opportunity that the special district has failed to comply with the law. Upon receipt of notification, the department shall proceed pursuant to s. 189.062 or s. 189.067. If the special district remains in noncompliance after the

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process set forth in s. 189.0652, or if a public hearing is not held, the Legislative Auditing Committee may request the department to proceed pursuant to s. 189.067(3).

- 3. Any manner other than a special act or local ordinance, notify the Department of Economic Opportunity that the special district has failed to comply with the law. Upon receipt of notification, the department shall proceed pursuant to s. 189.062 or s. 189.067(3).
- (c) In the case of a charter school or charter technical career center, notify the appropriate sponsoring entity, which may terminate the charter pursuant to ss. 1002.33 and 1002.34.

Section 5. Present paragraphs (d) through (j) of subsection (7) of section 11.45, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (e) through (k), respectively, and a new paragraph (d) is added to that subsection, to read:

- 11.45 Definitions; duties; authorities; reports; rules.-
- (7) AUDITOR GENERAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.-
- (d) During the Auditor General's review of audit reports, he or she shall contact each local government, as defined in s. 218.805(2), that is not in compliance with part VIII of chapter 218 and request evidence of corrective action. The local government shall provide the Auditor General with evidence of the initiation of corrective action within 45 days after the date it is requested by the Auditor General and evidence of completion of corrective action within 180 days after the date it is requested by the Auditor General. If the local government fails to comply with the Auditor General's request or is unable to take corrective action within the required timeframe, the Auditor General shall notify the Legislative Auditing Committee.

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Section 6. Subsection (5) of section 125.045, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

125.045 County economic development powers.-

(5) (a) By January 15 of each year, 2011, and annually thereafter, each county shall report to the Office of Economic and Demographic Research the economic development incentives in excess of \$25,000 given to businesses any business during the county's previous fiscal year. The Office of Economic and Demographic Research shall compile the information from the counties into a report and provide the report to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Department of Economic Opportunity. The county shall identify whether the economic development incentive is provided directly by the county or by another entity on behalf of the county, as well as the source of local dollars, and any state or federal dollars obligated for the incentive. Economic development incentives, for purposes of this report, are classified as follows include:

- 1. Class one: Direct Financial incentives of monetary assistance provided to an individual a business from the county or through an organization authorized by the county. Such incentives include: , but are not limited to, grants, loans, equity investments, loan insurance and quarantees, and training subsidies.
 - a. Grants.
 - b. Tax-based credits, refunds, or exemptions.
 - c. Fee-based credits, refunds, or exemptions.
 - d. Loans, loan insurance, or loan guarantees.
- 185 e. Below-market rate leases or deeds for real property.



186	f. Job training or recruitment.
187	g. Subsidized or discounted government services.
188	h. Infrastructure improvements.
189	2. Class two: General assistance, services, and support
190	provided collectively to businesses with a common interest or
191	purpose. Such incentives include:
192	a. Technical assistance and training.
193	b. Business incubators and accelerators.
194	c. Infrastructure improvements Indirect incentives in the
195	form of grants and loans provided to businesses and community
196	organizations that provide support to businesses or promote
197	business investment or development.
198	3. Class three: Business recruitment, retention, or
199	expansion efforts provided to benefit an individual business or
200	class of businesses. Such incentives include:
201	a. Marketing and market research.
202	b. Trade missions and trade shows.
203	c. Site selection.
204	d. Targeted assistance with the permitting and licensing
205	process.
206	e. Business plan or project development Fee-based or tax-
207	based incentives, including, but not limited to, credits,
208	refunds, exemptions, and property tax abatement or assessment
209	reductions.
210	4. Below-market rate leases or deeds for real property.
211	(b) A county shall report its economic development
212	incentives in the format specified by the Office of Economic and
213	Demographic Research.

(c) The Office of Economic and Demographic Research shall



compile the economic development incentives provided by each county in a manner that shows the total of each class of economic development incentives provided by each county and all counties. To the extent possible, the office shall compare the results of the economic development incentives provided by all counties to the results of state incentives provided in similar classes.

Section 7. Paragraph (e) of subsection (8) of section 166.021, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

166.021 Powers.-

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(e) 1. By January 15 of each year, 2011, and annually thereafter, each municipality having annual revenues or expenditures greater than \$250,000 shall report to the Office of Economic and Demographic Research the economic development incentives in excess of \$25,000 given to businesses any business during the municipality's previous fiscal year. The Office of Economic and Demographic Research shall compile the information from the municipalities into a report and provide the report to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Department of Economic Opportunity. The municipality shall identify whether the economic development incentive was provided directly by the municipality or by another entity on behalf of the municipality, as well as the source of local dollars, and any state or federal dollars obligated for the incentive. Economic development incentives, for purposes of this report, are classified as follows include:

a. Class one: Direct Financial incentives of monetary assistance provided to an individual a business $from\ the$



244	municipality or through an organization authorized by the
245	municipality. Such incentives include: - but are not limited to,
246	grants, loans, equity investments, loan insurance and
247	guarantees, and training subsidies.
248	(I) Grants.
249	(II) Tax-based credits, refunds, or exemptions.
250	(III) Fee-based credits, refunds, or exemptions.
251	(IV) Loans, loan insurance, or loan guarantees.
252	(V) Below-market rate leases or deeds for real property.
253	(VI) Job training or recruitment.
254	(VII) Subsidized or discounted government services.
255	(VIII) Infrastructure improvements.
256	b. Class two: General assistance, services, and support
257	provided collectively to businesses with a common interest or
258	purpose. Such incentives include:
259	(I) Technical assistance and training.
260	(II) Business incubators and accelerators.
261	(III) Infrastructure improvements Indirect incentives in
262	the form of grants and loans provided to businesses and
263	community organizations that provide support to businesses or
264	promote business investment or development.
265	c. Class three: Business recruitment, retention, or
266	expansion efforts provided to benefit an individual business or
267	class of businesses. Such incentives include:
268	(I) Marketing and market research.
269	(II) Trade missions and trade shows.
270	(III) Site selection.
271	(IV) Targeted assistance with the permitting and licensing
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(V) Business plan or project development Fee-based or taxbased incentives, including, but not limited to, credits, refunds, exemptions, and property tax abatement or assessment reductions. d. Below-market rate leases or deeds for real property. 2. A municipality shall report its economic development incentives in the format specified by the Office of Economic and Demographic Research. 3. The Office of Economic and Demographic Research shall compile the economic development incentives provided by each municipality in a manner that shows the total of each class of economic development incentives provided by each municipality and all municipalities. To the extent possible, the office shall compare the results of the economic development incentives provided by all municipalities to the results of state incentives provided in similar classes. Section 8. Section 218.80, Florida Statutes, is transferred and renumbered as section 218.795, Florida Statutes. Section 9. Part VIII of chapter 218, Florida Statutes, consisting of sections 218.801, 218.803, 218.805, 218.81, 218.82, 218.83, 218.84, 218.88, and 218.89, is created to read: PART VIII LOCAL GOVERNMENT FISCAL TRANSPARENCY ACT 218.801 Short title.—This part may be cited as the "Local Government Fiscal Transparency Act." 218.803 Purpose.—The purpose of this part is to promote the

fiscal transparency of local governments when using public funds

government actions that would increase taxes, enact new taxes,

by requiring additional public noticing of proposed local

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extend expiring taxes, or issue tax-supported debt and requiring voting records of local governing bodies related to such actions to be easily and readily accessible by the public.

218.805 Definitions.—As used in this part, the term:

- (1) "Debt" means bonds, loans, promissory notes, leasepurchase agreements, certificates of participation, installment sales, leases, or any other financing mechanisms or financial arrangements, whether or not a debt for legal purposes, for financing or refinancing the acquisition, construction, improvement, or purchase of capital improvement projects.
- (2) "Local government" means any county, municipality, school district, special district dependent to a county or municipality, municipal service taxing unit, or independent special district, but does not include special dependent or independent districts established to provide hospital services, provided such special districts do not levy, assess, and collect ad valorem taxes.
 - (3) "Tax increase" means:
- (a) For ad valorem taxes, any increase in a local government's millage rate above the rolled-back rate as defined in s. 200.065(1).
- (b) For all other taxes, a tax enactment, tax extension, or an increase in the tax rate.
- (4) "Tax-supported debt" means debt with a duration of more than 5 years secured in whole or in part by state or local tax levies, whether such security is direct or indirect, explicit or implicit, and includes, but is not limited to, debt for which annual appropriations pledged for payment are from government fund types receiving tax revenues or shared revenues from state



331 tax sources. The term does not include debt secured solely by 332 revenues generated by the project that is financed with the debt. 333 334 218.81 Voting record access.-335 (1) Each local government shall post on its website, in a 336 manner that is easily accessible to the public, a history of the 337 voting record of each action taken by the local governing board 338 which addressed a tax increase or new tax-supported debt 339 issuance, except debt that was refinanced or refunded and that 340 did not extend the term or increase the outstanding principal amount of the original debt, as follows: 341 342 (a) By October 1, 2018, the voting record history from the 343 preceding year; 344 (b) By October 1, 2019, the voting record history from the 345 preceding 2 years; 346 (c) By October 1, 2020, the voting record history from the 347 preceding 3 years; and (d) By October 1, 2021, and thereafter, the voting record 348 349 history required pursuant to this subsection from the preceding 350 4 years. 351 (2) The website must provide links to allow users to 352 navigate to related sites if supporting details or documentation 353 are available. 354 (3) In any public notice of a tax increase or the issuance 355 of new tax-supported debt, each local government shall include 356 with the public notice the website address where the voting 357 records can be accessed. 358 218.82 Property tax information and history.-359 (1) Each county property appraiser, as defined in s.



360	192.001, shall maintain a website that includes, in a manner
361	easily accessible to the public, links that provide access to:
362	(a) The notice of proposed property taxes and non-ad
363	valorem assessments required under s. 200.069 for each parcel of
364	property in that county; and
365	(b) A history of the millage rate and the amount of tax
366	levied by each taxing authority on each parcel, as follows:
367	1. By October 1, 2018, the history from the 2 preceding
368	<u>years;</u>
369	2. By October 1, 2019, the history from the 3 preceding
370	years; and
371	3. By October 1, 2020, and thereafter, the history from the
372	4 preceding years.
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374	This subsection does not apply to information that is otherwise
375	exempt from public disclosure.
376	(2) Each local government shall post on its website, in a
377	manner that is easily accessible to the public, links that
378	provide access to a history of each of its millage rates and the
379	total annual amount of revenue generated by each of these
380	<u>levies</u> , as follows:
381	(a) By October 1, 2018, the history from the 2 preceding
382	<u>years;</u>
383	(b) By October 1, 2019, the history from the 3 preceding
384	years; and
385	(c) By October 1, 2020, and thereafter, the history from
386	the 4 preceding years.
387	218.83 Expanded public noticing of tax increases and new
388	tax-supported debt issuance

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- (1) For the purpose of this section, the term "tax increase" does not include an ad valorem tax increase or taxes enacted, extended, or increased by referendum. (2) A local government that intends to vote on a proposed
- tax increase or the issuance of new tax-supported debt shall advertise a public hearing to solicit public input concerning the proposed tax increase or new tax-supported debt issuance. This public hearing must occur at least 14 days prior to the date that the local governing body meets to take a final vote on the tax increase or issuance of new tax-supported debt. Any hearing required under this subsection shall be held after 5 p.m. if scheduled on a day other than Saturday. No hearing shall be held on a Sunday. The general public shall be allowed to speak and to ask questions relevant to the tax increase or the tax-supported debt issuance. The local government shall provide public notice as set forth in subsection (4).
- (3) (a) If, following the public hearing required under subsection (2), the local government intends to proceed with a vote to approve a tax increase or the new issuance of taxsupported debt, the local government shall provide public notice in the manner set forth in subsection (4) at least 10 days prior to the date of the scheduled public meeting.
- (b) For a tax increase, the notice shall also include, at a minimum:
- 1. A statement prominently posted that the local government intends to vote on a proposed new tax enactment, tax extension, or tax rate increase.
 - 2. The time and place of the meeting.
 - 3. The amount of the tax increase, including both the rate



418 and total amount of annual revenue expected to be generated and 419 the expected annual revenue expressed as a percentage of the 420 government's general fund revenue. 421 4. A detailed explanation of the intended uses of the levy. 422 5. A statement indicating whether the local government 423 expects to use the proceeds to secure debt. 424 (c) For new tax-supported debt issuance, the notice shall 425 also include, at a minimum: 426 1. A statement prominently posted that the local government 427 intends to vote on a proposed new issuance of tax-supported 428 debt. 429 2. The time and place of the meeting. 430 3. A truth in bonding statement in substantially the 431 following form: 432 The ...(insert local government name)... is proposing to 433 issue \$...(insert principal)... of debt or obligation for the 434 purpose of ...(insert purpose) This debt or obligation is expected to be repaid over a period of ... (insert term of 435 436 issue) ... years. At a forecasted interest rate of ... (insert 437 rate of interest)..., total interest paid over the life of the 438 debt or obligation will be \$...(insert sum of interest 439 payments) The source of repayment or security for this 440 proposal is the ...(insert the local government name)... existing ...(insert fund).... Authorizing this debt or 441 442 obligation will result in \$...(insert the annual amount)... of 443 ...(insert local government name)... (insert fund)... moneys 444 not being available to finance the other services of the 445 ...(insert local government name)... each year for ...(insert

the length of the debt or obligation)....

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4. Presentation of the debt affordability ratios calculated pursuant to s. 218.84, described in substantially the following form:

The following ratios measure the affordability of outstanding and proposed new long-term, tax-supported debt issued by ... (insert local government name) The ratios show debt service as a percentage of the revenues available to support that debt, including the new debt being proposed ... (insert 5 year history and 2 year projection of debt affordability ratio)....

- (4) The notice provided by a local government announcing a public hearing to take public input as set forth in subsection (2) or the public meeting to take a final vote as set forth in subsection (3) must meet the following requirements:
- (a) The local government must advertise the notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the county or counties where the local government exists. A local government may advertise in a geographically limited insert of a general circulation newspaper if the region encompassed by the insert contains the jurisdictional boundaries of the local government. The newspaper must be of general interest with readership in the community and not one of limited subject matter, pursuant to chapter 50. The advertisement must be at least one-quarter page in size of a standard size newspaper or a half-page in size of a tabloid size newspaper, and the headline in the advertisement must be in a type no smaller than 18 point. The advertisement may not be placed in that portion of the newspaper where legal notices and classified advertisements appear. The advertisement must appear in a newspaper that is published at least 5 days a week unless

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the only newspaper in the county is published less than 5 days a week. If the advertisement appears in a geographically limited insert of a general circulation newspaper, the insert must be one that is published at least twice a week throughout the local government's jurisdiction. In lieu of publishing the notice set out in this paragraph, the local government may mail a copy of the notice to each elector residing within the jurisdiction of the local government; and

- (b) The local government must post on its website in a manner that is easily accessible to the public the information required under subsections (2) and (3), as applicable.
- (5) This section does not apply to the refinancing or refunding of debt that does not extend the term or increase the outstanding principal amount of the original debt.
 - 218.84 Local government debt fiscal responsibility.-
- (1) It is the public policy of this state to encourage local governments to exercise prudence in authorizing and issuing debt. Before a local government authorizes debt, it must consider its ability to meet its total debt service requirements in light of other demands on the local government's fiscal resources. Each local government shall perform a debt affordability analysis as set forth in subsection (2), and the governing board shall consider the analysis before approving the issuance of new tax-supported debt.
- (2) The debt affordability analysis shall, at a minimum, consist of the calculation of the local government's actual debt affordability ratio for the 5 fiscal years prior to the year the debt is expected to be issued and a projection of the ratio for at least the first 2 fiscal years in which the new debt is



expected to be issued. The analysis shall include a comparison of the debt affordability ratio with and without the new debt issuance.

- (3) The debt affordability ratio for a given fiscal year shall be a ratio:
- (a) The denominator of which is the total annual revenues available to pay debt service on outstanding tax-supported debt of the local government; and
- (b) The numerator of which is the total annual debt service for outstanding tax-supported debt of the local government.

218.88 Audits.—Audits of financial statements of local governments which are performed by a certified public accountant pursuant to s. 218.39 and submitted to the Auditor General must be accompanied by an affidavit executed by the chair of the governing board of the local government stating that the local government has complied with this part. The affidavit must be filed with the Auditor General, or in the event the local government has not complied with this part, the affidavit shall instead include a description of the noncompliance and corrective action taken by the local government to correct the noncompliance and to prevent such noncompliance in the future.

218.89 Local government websites.-If a local government is required under this part to post information on its website, but does not operate an official website, the local government must provide the appropriate county or municipality within which the local government is located the information required to be posted, and each county or municipality shall post the required information on its website.

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534	======== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =========
535	And the title is amended as follows:
536	Delete line 3
537	and insert:
538	affairs; amending ss. 129.03, 129.06, and 166.241,
539	F.S.; requiring counties and municipalities to
540	maintain certain budget documents on the entities $^{\prime}$
541	websites for a specified period; amending s. 11.40,
542	F.S.; expanding the