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A bill to be entitled An act relating to effective public notices by governmental entities; creating s. 50.0311, F.S.; defining the term "publicly accessible website"; authorizing a local government to use its publicly accessible website for legally required advertisements and public notices; providing conditions for such use; providing for optional receipt of legally required advertisements and public notices by first-class mail or e-mail; providing requirements for advertisements and public notices published on a publicly accessible website; amending s. 50.011, F.S.; providing that a notice, advertisement, or publication on a publicly accessible website of a local government in accordance with s. 50.0311, F.S., constitutes legal notice; amending s. 50.021, F.S.; providing that advertisements directed by law or order or decree of court to be made in a county in which no newspaper is published may be made by publication on a publicly accessible website; amending s. 50.051, F.S.; providing clarifying provisions; amending s. 50.061, F.S.; providing clarifying provisions; amending s. 100.342, F.S.; providing for notice of special election or referendum on a publicly accessible website; amending s. 125.66, F.S.; providing for notice of consideration of an ordinance by a board of county commissioners to be published on a publicly accessible website; requiring maintenance of the advertisement for a specified period; providing clarifying provisions; amending s. 129.03, F.S.;

Page 1 of 36

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providing for the advertisement of a summary statement of adopted tentative county budgets on a publicly accessible website; amending s. 129.06, F.S.; providing for advertisement of a public hearing relating to the amendment of a county budget on a publicly accessible website; amending s. 153.79, F.S.; providing for public advertisement by a county water and sewer system district of projects to construct, reconstruct, acquire, or improve a water system or a sewer system, and of a call for sealed bids for such projects, on a publicly accessible website; amending s. 159.32, F.S.; providing for advertisement for competitive bids for contracts for the construction of a project under the Florida Industrial Development Financing Act on a publicly accessible website; amending s. 162.12, F.S.; providing for optional serving of notice by a code enforcement board of a violation of a county or municipal code via a publicly accessible website; amending s. 163.3184, F.S.; providing for notice of public hearings on the adoption of a local government comprehensive plan or plan amendment or the approval of a compliance agreement under the Local Government Comprehensive Planning and Land Development Regulation Act via a publicly accessible website; amending s. 166.041, F.S.; providing for notice of adoption of a municipal ordinance via a publicly accessible website; providing clarifying provisions; amending s. 170.05, F.S.; providing for publication on a publicly accessible website of a resolution relating to municipal public improvements financed by special

Page 2 of 36

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assessments; amending s. 170.07, F.S.; providing for publication on a publicly accessible website of notice of hearing on municipal public improvements financed by special assessments; amending s. 180.24, F.S.; providing for advertisement via a publicly accessible website of specified construction contracts for utilities or extensions to a previously constructed utility; amending s. 197.3632, F.S.; providing for publication on a publicly accessible website of a local government's notice of intent to use the uniform method of collecting non-ad valorem assessments; amending s. 200.065, F.S.; providing for advertisement on a publicly accessible website of a taxing authority's intent to adopt a millage rate and budget; providing for advertisement on a publicly accessible website of the intention of a specified multicounty taxing authority to adopt a tentative budget and millage rate; providing clarifying and conforming provisions; providing for notice via a publicly accessible website of correction of a specified error contained in a notice of proposed property taxes mailed to taxpayers; amending s. 255.0525, F.S.; providing for advertisement via a publicly accessible website for the solicitation of competitive bids or proposals for construction projects of a county, municipality, or other political subdivision which are projected to exceed specified costs; amending s. 380.06, F.S.; providing for publication of an advertisement on a publicly accessible website of a public hearing by a local government on an areawide development

Page 3 of 36

of regional impact under the Florida Environmental Land and Water Management Act of 1972; amending s. 403.7049, F.S.; prescribing procedures for fulfilling public disclosure system requirements with respect to the duty of a municipality to disclose costs for solid waste management; amending s. 403.973, F.S.; redefining the term "duly noticed" to include publication on a publicly accessible website; providing conforming provisions; amending s. 420.9075, F.S.; providing for advertisement of notice on a publicly accessible website of funding availability through a local housing assistance plan under the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Act; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 50.0311, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

50.0311 Publication of advertisements and public notices
on a local government's publicly accessible website and
government access channels.—

- (1) For purposes of notices and advertisements required by statute to be published by a local government, the term "publicly accessible website" means a county or municipal government's official website that is accessible via the Internet.
- 111 (2) If specifically authorized by ordinance, a local government may use its website for legally required

Page 4 of 36

advertisements and public notices if:

- (a) A public library or other governmental facility providing free access to the Internet during regular business hours exists within the jurisdictional boundaries of such county or municipality;
- (b) The local government provides notice to its residents at least once per year in a newspaper of general circulation, the county or municipality's newsletter or periodical, or another publication that is mailed or delivered to all residents or property owners throughout the local government's jurisdiction, indicating that residents may receive legally required advertisements and public notices from the local government by first-class mail or e-mail upon registering their name and address or e-mail address with the local governmental entity; and
- (c) The local government maintains a registry of names, addresses, and e-mail addresses of residents who request in writing that they receive legally required advertisements and public notices from the local government by first-class mail or e-mail.
- <u>qublicly accessible website shall be conspicuously placed on the website's homepage or accessible through a direct link from the homepage. The advertisement shall indicate the date on which the advertisement was first published on the publicly accessible website.</u>
- (4) The local government that has a government access channel authorized under s. 610.109 may also include on its

Page 5 of 36

government access channel a summary of all advertisements and public notices that are published on its website.

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Section 2. Section 50.011, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

50.011 Where and in what language legal notices to be published.—Whenever by statute an official or legal advertisement or a publication, or notice in a newspaper has been or is directed or permitted in the nature of or in lieu of process, or for constructive service, or in initiating, assuming, reviewing, exercising or enforcing jurisdiction or power, or for any purpose, including all legal notices and advertisements of sheriffs and tax collectors, the contemporaneous and continuous intent and meaning of such legislation all and singular, existing or repealed, is and has been and is hereby declared to be and to have been, and the rule of interpretation is and has been, a publication in a newspaper printed and published periodically once a week or oftener, containing at least 25 percent of its words in the English language, entered or qualified to be admitted and entered as periodicals matter at a post office in the county where published, for sale to the public generally, available to the public generally for the publication of official or other notices and customarily containing information of a public character or of interest or of value to the residents or owners of property in the county where published, or of interest or of value to the general public. Notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary, and as specifically authorized by s. 50.0311, a notice, advertisement, or publication on a publicly accessible

169	website of a local government in accordance with s. 50.0311
L70	constitutes legal notice.
L71	Section 3. Section 50.021, Florida Statutes, is amended to
L72	read:
L73	50.021 Publication when no newspaper in county.—When any
L74	law, or order or decree of court, shall direct advertisements to
L75	be made in any county and there be no newspaper published in the
L76	said county, the advertisement may be made, in the case of a
L77	county or municipality, by publishing such advertisement on a
L78	publicly accessible website maintained by the entity responsible
L79	for publication or posting three copies thereof in three
180	different places in said county, one of which shall be at the
181	front door of the courthouse, and by publication in the nearest
182	county in which a newspaper is published.
183	Section 4. Section 50.051, Florida Statutes, is amended to
184	read:
L85	50.051 Proof of publication; form of uniform affidavit.—
186	The printed form upon which all such affidavits establishing
L87	proof of publication in a newspaper are to be executed shall be
188	substantially as follows:
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L90	NAME OF NEWSPAPER
191	Published (Weekly or Daily)
192	(Town or City) (County) FLORIDA
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L94	STATE OF FLORIDA
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Page 7 of 36

197 Before the undersigned authority personally appeared, 198 who on oath says that he or she is of the, a 199 newspaper published at in County, Florida; that the 200 attached copy of advertisement, being a in the matter of 201 in the Court, was published in said newspaper in the 202 issues of 203 Affiant further says that the said is a newspaper 204 published at, in said County, Florida, and that the 205 said newspaper has heretofore been continuously published in 206 said County, Florida, each and has been entered as 207 periodicals matter at the post office in, in said 208 County, Florida, for a period of 1 year next preceding the first publication of the attached copy of advertisement; and affiant 209 210 further says that he or she has neither paid nor promised any person, firm or corporation any discount, rebate, commission or 211 212 refund for the purpose of securing this advertisement for 213 publication in the said newspaper. 214 215 Sworn to and subscribed before me this day of, ...(year)..., by, who is personally known to me or who has 216 217 produced (type of identification) as identification. 218 219 ... (Signature of Notary Public) ... 220 221 222 ... (Print, Type, or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary Public)... 223 ...(Notary Public)... 224

Page 8 of 36

Section 5. Subsection (4) of section 50.061, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

50.061 Amounts chargeable.-

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(4) All official public notices and legal advertisements <u>published in a newspaper</u> shall be charged and paid for on the basis of 6-point type on 6-point body, unless otherwise specified by statute.

Section 6. Section 100.342, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

100.342 Notice of special election or referendum.—In any special election or referendum not otherwise provided for there shall be at least 30 days' notice of the election or referendum by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the county, district, or municipality, as the case may be, or, in the case of a county or municipality, publication on a publicly accessible website maintained by the local government responsible for publication and published daily during the 5 weeks immediately preceding the election or referendum. If advertised in the newspaper, the publication shall be made at least twice, once in the fifth week and once in the third week prior to the week in which the election or referendum is to be held. If there is no newspaper of general circulation in the county, district, or municipality and publication is not made on a publicly accessible website maintained by the local government responsible for publication, the notice shall be posted in no fewer less than five places within the territorial limits of the county, district, or municipality.

Page 9 of 36

Section 7. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) and paragraph

(b) of subsection (4) of section 125.66, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

125.66 Ordinances; enactment procedure; emergency ordinances; rezoning or change of land use ordinances or resolutions.—

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- (2)(a) The regular enactment procedure shall be as follows: The board of county commissioners at any regular or special meeting may enact or amend any ordinance, except as provided in subsection (4), if notice of intent to consider such ordinance is given at least 10 days before the prior to said meeting on a publicly accessible website maintained by the county or by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the county. If advertised on a publicly accessible website, the advertisement shall be published daily during the 10 days immediately preceding the meeting. A copy of such notice shall be kept available for public inspection during the regular business hours of the office of the clerk of the board of county commissioners. The notice of proposed enactment shall state the date, time, and place of the meeting; the title or titles of proposed ordinances; and the place or places within the county where such proposed ordinances may be inspected by the public. The notice shall also advise that interested parties may appear at the meeting and be heard with respect to the proposed ordinance.
- (4) Ordinances or resolutions, initiated by other than the county, that change the actual zoning map designation of a parcel or parcels of land shall be enacted pursuant to subsection (2). Ordinances or resolutions that change the actual

Page 10 of 36

list of permitted, conditional, or prohibited uses within a zoning category, or ordinances or resolutions initiated by the county that change the actual zoning map designation of a parcel or parcels of land shall be enacted pursuant to the following procedure:

- (b) In cases in which the proposed ordinance or resolution changes the actual list of permitted, conditional, or prohibited uses within a zoning category, or changes the actual zoning map designation of a parcel or parcels of land involving 10 contiguous acres or more, the board of county commissioners shall provide for public notice and hearings as follows:
- 1. The board of county commissioners shall hold two advertised public hearings on the proposed ordinance or resolution. At least one hearing shall be held after 5 p.m. on a weekday, unless the board of county commissioners, by a majority plus one vote, elects to conduct that hearing at another time of day. The first public hearing shall be held at least 7 days after the day that the first advertisement is published. The second hearing shall be held at least 10 days after the first hearing and shall be advertised at least 5 days prior to the public hearing.
- 2. The required <u>newspaper</u> advertisements shall be no less than 2 columns wide by 10 inches long in a standard size or a tabloid size newspaper, and the headline in the advertisement shall be in a type no smaller than 18 point. The <u>newspaper</u> advertisement shall not be placed in that portion of the newspaper where legal notices and classified advertisements appear. The <u>newspaper</u> advertisement shall be placed in a

Page 11 of 36

newspaper of general paid circulation in the county and of general interest and readership in the community pursuant to chapter 50, not one of limited subject matter. It is the legislative intent that, whenever possible, the newspaper advertisement shall appear in a newspaper that is published at least 5 days a week unless the only newspaper in the community is published less than 5 days a week. The newspaper advertisement shall be in substantially the following form:

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NOTICE OF (TYPE OF) CHANGE

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The ...(name of local governmental unit)... proposes to adopt the following by ordinance or resolution:...(title of ordinance or resolution)....

A public hearing on the ordinance or resolution will be held on ...(date and time)... at ...(meeting place)....

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Except for amendments which change the actual list of permitted, conditional, or prohibited uses within a zoning category, the advertisement shall contain a geographic location map which clearly indicates the area within the local government covered by the proposed ordinance or resolution. The map shall include major street names as a means of identification of the general area.

333 3. In lieu of publishing the advertisements set out in 334 this paragraph, the board of county commissioners may mail a 335 notice to each person owning real property within the area 336 covered by the ordinance or resolution. Such notice shall

Page 12 of 36

clearly explain the proposed ordinance or resolution and shall notify the person of the time, place, and location of both public hearings on the proposed ordinance or resolution.

Section 8. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section 129.03, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

129.03 Preparation and adoption of budget.-

- (3) No later than 15 days after certification of value by the property appraiser pursuant to s. 200.065(1), the county budget officer, after tentatively ascertaining the proposed fiscal policies of the board for the ensuing fiscal year, shall prepare and present to the board a tentative budget for the ensuing fiscal year for each of the funds 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.
- (b) Upon receipt of the tentative budgets and completion of any revisions made by the board, the board shall prepare a statement summarizing all of the adopted tentative budgets. This summary statement shall show, for each budget and the total of all budgets, the proposed tax millages, the balances, the reserves, and the total of each major classification of receipts and expenditures, classified according to the classification of accounts prescribed by the appropriate state agency. The board shall cause this summary statement to be advertised one time in a newspaper of general circulation published in the county, on a publicly accessible website maintained by the county, or by posting at the courthouse door if there is no such newspaper or

website, and the advertisement shall appear adjacent to the advertisement required pursuant to s. 200.065.

Section 9. Paragraph (f) of subsection (2) of section 129.06, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

129.06 Execution and amendment of budget.-

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- (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) If an amendment to a budget is required for a purpose not specifically authorized in paragraphs (a)-(e), unless otherwise prohibited by law, the amendment may be authorized by resolution or ordinance of the board of county commissioners adopted following a public hearing. 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 on a publicly accessible website maintained by the county or 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. If advertised in the newspaper, the public hearing must be advertised at least 2 days, but not more than 5 days, before the date of the hearing. If advertised on a publicly accessible website, the notice must be published daily during the 5 days immediately preceding 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 budget.

Section 10. Section 153.79, Florida Statutes, is amended

Page 14 of 36

to read:

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153.79 Contracts for construction of improvements, sealed bids.—All contracts let, awarded, or entered into by the district for the construction, reconstruction, or acquisition or improvement of a water system or a sewer system or both or any part thereof, if the amount thereof shall exceed \$1,000, shall be awarded only after public advertisement and call for sealed bids therefor on a publicly accessible website maintained by the county or τ in a newspaper published in the county circulating in the district, or, if there is be no such website or newspaper, then in a newspaper published in the state and circulating in the district. If advertised in the newspaper, such advertisement shall to be published at least once at least 3 weeks before the date set for the receipt of such bids. If advertised on a publicly accessible website, such advertisement shall be published daily during the 3 weeks immediately preceding the date set for the receipt of such bids. Such advertisements for bids in addition to the other necessary and pertinent matter shall state in general terms the nature and description of the improvement or improvements to be undertaken and shall state that detailed plans and specifications for such work are on file for inspection in the office of the district clerk and copies thereof shall be furnished to any interested party upon payment of reasonable charges to reimburse the district for its expenses in providing such copies. The award shall be made to the responsible and competent bidder or bidders who shall offer to undertake the improvements at the lowest cost to the district and such bidder or bidders shall be required to file bond for

Page 15 of 36

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the full and faithful performance of such work and the execution of any such contract in such amount as the district board shall determine, and in all other respects the letting of such construction contracts shall comply with applicable provisions of the general laws relating to the letting of public contracts. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to prevent the district from hiring or retaining such consulting engineers, attorneys, financial experts or other technicians as it shall determine, in its discretion, or from undertaking any construction work with its own resources, without any such public advertisement.

Section 11. Section 159.32, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

159.32 Construction contracts.—Contracts for the construction of the project may be awarded by the local agency in such manner as in its judgment will best promote free and open competition, including advertisement for competitive bids in a newspaper of general circulation within the boundaries of the local agency or on a publicly accessible website maintained by the county; however, if the local agency shall determine that the purposes of this part will be more effectively served, the local agency in its discretion may award or cause to be awarded contracts for the construction of any project, or any part thereof, upon a negotiated basis as determined by the local agency. The local agency shall prescribe bid security requirements and other procedures in connection with the award of such contracts as in its judgment shall protect the public interest. The local agency may by written contract engage the services of the lessee, purchaser, or prospective lessee or

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purchaser of any project in the construction of the project and may provide in the contract that the lessee, purchaser, or prospective lessee or purchaser may act as an agent of, or an independent contractor for, the local agency for the performance of the functions described therein, subject to such conditions and requirements consistent with the provisions of this part as shall be prescribed in the contract, including functions such as the acquisition of the site and other real property for the project; the preparation of plans, specifications, and contract documents; the award of construction and other contracts upon a competitive or negotiated basis; the construction of the project, or any part thereof, directly by the lessee, purchaser, or prospective lessee or purchaser; the inspection and supervision of construction; the employment of engineers, architects, builders, and other contractors; and the provision of money to pay the cost thereof pending reimbursement by the local agency. Any such contract may provide that the local agency may, out of proceeds of bonds, make advances to or reimburse the lessee, purchaser, or prospective lessee or purchaser for its costs incurred in the performance of those functions, and shall set forth the supporting documents required to be submitted to the local agency and the reviews, examinations, and audits that shall be required in connection therewith to assure compliance with the provisions of this part and the contract. Section 12. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 162.12, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 162.12 Notices.-

Page 17 of 36

(2) In addition to providing notice as set forth in subsection (1), at the option of the code enforcement board, notice may also be served by publication or posting, as follows:

- (a)1. Such notice shall be published once during each week for 4 consecutive weeks (four publications being sufficient) in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the code enforcement board is located or daily during the 4 weeks immediately preceding the hearing on a publicly accessible website maintained by the local government. The website and newspaper shall meet such requirements as are prescribed under chapter 50 for legal and official advertisements.
- 2. Proof of <u>newspaper</u> publication shall be made as provided in ss. 50.041 and 50.051.

Evidence that an attempt has been made to hand deliver or mail notice as provided in subsection (1), together with proof of publication or posting as provided in subsection (2), shall be sufficient to show that the notice requirements of this part have been met, without regard to whether or not the alleged violator actually received such notice.

Section 13. Paragraph (b) of subsection (15) and paragraph (c) of subsection (16) of section 163.3184, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

163.3184 Process for adoption of comprehensive plan or plan amendment.—

- (15) PUBLIC HEARINGS.—
- (b) The local governing body shall hold at least two advertised public hearings on the proposed comprehensive plan or

Page 18 of 36

plan amendment as follows:

- 1. The first public hearing shall be held at the transmittal stage pursuant to subsection (3). It shall be held on a weekday at least 7 days after the day that the first advertisement is published or after the notice of the first public hearing is initially published on the publicly accessible website.
- 2. The second public hearing shall be held at the adoption stage pursuant to subsection (7). It shall be held on a weekday at least 5 days after the day that the second advertisement is published or after the notice of the second public hearing is initially published on the publicly accessible website.
 - (16) COMPLIANCE AGREEMENTS.-
- agreement, the local government must approve the compliance agreement at a public hearing advertised at least 10 days before the public hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in the area or daily during the 10 days immediately preceding the hearing on a publicly accessible website maintained by the local government in accordance with the advertisement requirements of subsection (15).
- Section 14. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (3) of section 166.041, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
- 166.041 Procedures for adoption of ordinances and resolutions.—
- (3)(a) Except as provided in paragraph (c), a proposed ordinance may be read by title, or in full, on at least 2 separate days and shall, at least 10 days <u>before</u> prior to

Page 19 of 36

adoption, be noticed once in a newspaper of general circulation in the municipality or noticed daily during the 10 days immediately preceding the adoption on a publicly accessible website maintained by the municipality. The notice of proposed enactment shall state the date, time, and place of the meeting; the title or titles of proposed ordinances; and the place or places within the municipality where such proposed ordinances may be inspected by the public. The notice shall also advise that interested parties may appear at the meeting and be heard with respect to the proposed ordinance.

- (c) Ordinances initiated by other than the municipality that change the actual zoning map designation of a parcel or parcels of land shall be enacted pursuant to paragraph (a). Ordinances that change the actual list of permitted, conditional, or prohibited uses within a zoning category, or ordinances initiated by the municipality that change the actual zoning map designation of a parcel or parcels of land shall be enacted pursuant to the following procedure:
- 1. In cases in which the proposed ordinance changes the actual zoning map designation for a parcel or parcels of land involving less than 10 contiguous acres, the governing body shall direct the clerk of the governing body to notify by mail each real property owner whose land the municipality will redesignate by enactment of the ordinance and whose address is known by reference to the latest ad valorem tax records. The notice shall state the substance of the proposed ordinance as it affects that property owner and shall set a time and place for one or more public hearings on such ordinance. Such notice shall

be given at least 30 days prior to the date set for the public hearing, and a copy of the notice shall be kept available for public inspection during the regular business hours of the office of the clerk of the governing body. The governing body shall hold a public hearing on the proposed ordinance and may, upon the conclusion of the hearing, immediately adopt the ordinance.

- 2. In cases in which the proposed ordinance changes the actual list of permitted, conditional, or prohibited uses within a zoning category, or changes the actual zoning map designation of a parcel or parcels of land involving 10 contiguous acres or more, the governing body shall provide for public notice and hearings as follows:
- a. The local governing body shall hold two advertised public hearings on the proposed ordinance. At least one hearing shall be held after 5 p.m. on a weekday, unless the local governing body, by a majority plus one vote, elects to conduct that hearing at another time of day. The first public hearing shall be held at least 7 days after the day that the first advertisement is published. The second hearing shall be held at least 10 days after the first hearing and shall be advertised at least 5 days prior to the public hearing.
- b. The required <u>newspaper</u> advertisements shall be no less than 2 columns wide by 10 inches long in a standard size or a tabloid size newspaper, and the headline in the advertisement shall be in a type no smaller than 18 point. The <u>newspaper</u> advertisement shall not be placed in that portion of the newspaper where legal notices and classified advertisements

Page 21 of 36

appear. The <u>newspaper</u> advertisement shall be placed in a newspaper of general paid circulation in the municipality and of general interest and readership in the municipality, not one of limited subject matter, pursuant to chapter 50. It is the legislative intent that, whenever possible, the <u>newspaper</u> advertisement appear in a newspaper that is published at least 5 days a week unless the only newspaper in the municipality is published less than 5 days a week. The <u>newspaper</u> advertisement shall be in substantially the following form:

NOTICE OF (TYPE OF) CHANGE

The ...(name of local governmental unit)... proposes to adopt the following ordinance:...(title of the ordinance)....

A public hearing on the ordinance will be held on ...(date and time)... at ...(meeting place)....

Except for amendments which change the actual list of permitted, conditional, or prohibited uses within a zoning category, the advertisement shall contain a geographic location map which clearly indicates the area covered by the proposed ordinance. The map shall include major street names as a means of identification of the general area.

c. In lieu of publishing the advertisement set out in this paragraph, the municipality may mail a notice to each person owning real property within the area covered by the ordinance. Such notice shall clearly explain the proposed ordinance and shall notify the person of the time, place, and location of any public hearing on the proposed ordinance.

Page 22 of 36

Section 15. Section 170.05, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

170.05 Publication of resolution.—Upon the adoption of the resolution provided for in s. 170.03, the municipality shall cause said resolution to be published on a publicly accessible website maintained by the municipality or one time in a newspaper of general circulation published in said municipality, and if there is be no website or newspaper published in said municipality, the governing authority of said municipality shall cause said resolution to be published once a week for a period of 2 weeks in a newspaper of general circulation published in the county in which said municipality is located.

Section 16. Section 170.07, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

170.07 Publication of preliminary assessment roll.—Upon the completion of said preliminary assessment roll, the governing authority of the municipality shall by resolution fix a time and place at which the owners of the property to be assessed or any other persons interested therein may appear before said governing authority and be heard as to the propriety and advisability of making such improvements, as to the cost thereof, as to the manner of payment therefor, and as to the amount thereof to be assessed against each property so improved. Thirty days' notice in writing of such time and place shall be given to such property owners. The notice shall include the amount of the assessment and shall be served by mailing a copy to each of such property owners at his or her last known address, the names and addresses of such property owners to be

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notice; bids.-

obtained from the records of the property appraiser or from such other sources as the city or town clerk or engineer deems reliable, proof of such mailing to be made by the affidavit of the clerk or deputy clerk of said municipality, or by the engineer, said proof to be filed with the clerk, provided, that failure to mail said notice or notices shall not invalidate any of the proceedings hereunder. Notice of the time and place of such hearing shall also be given by two publications a week apart in a newspaper of general circulation in said municipality or by publication daily for 2 weeks on a publicly accessible website maintained by the municipality, and if there is be no website or newspaper published in said municipality, the governing authority of said municipality shall cause said notice to be published in like manner in a newspaper of general circulation published in the county in which said municipality is located; provided that the last publication shall be at least 1 week before prior to the date of the hearing. Said notice shall describe the streets or other areas to be improved and advise all persons interested that the description of each property to be assessed and the amount to be assessed to each piece or parcel of property may be ascertained at the office of the clerk of the municipality. Such service by publication shall be verified by the affidavit of the publisher and filed with the clerk of said municipality. Section 17. Subsection (1) of section 180.24, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 180.24 Contracts for construction; bond; publication of

Page 24 of 36

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Any municipality desiring the accomplishment of any or all of the purposes of this chapter may make contracts for the construction of any of the utilities mentioned in this chapter, or any extension or extensions to any previously constructed utility, which said contracts shall be in writing, and the contractor shall be required to give bond, which said bond shall be executed by a surety company authorized to do business in the state; provided, however, construction contracts in excess of \$25,000 shall be advertised by the publication of a notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which said municipality is located at least once each week for 2 consecutive weeks, by publication daily for 2 weeks on a publicly accessible website maintained by the municipality, or by posting three notices in three conspicuous places in said municipality, one of which shall be on the door of the city hall; and that at least 10 days shall elapse between the date of the first publication or posting of such notice and the date of receiving bids and the execution of such contract documents. For municipal construction projects identified in s. 255.0525, the notice provision of that section supersedes and replaces the notice provisions in this section.

Section 18. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section 197.3632, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 197.3632 Uniform method for the levy, collection, and enforcement of non-ad valorem assessments.—
- (3) (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, a local government which is authorized to impose a non-ad valorem assessment and which elects to use the uniform

Page 25 of 36

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method of collecting such assessment for the first time as authorized in this section shall adopt a resolution at a public hearing before prior to January 1 or, if the property appraiser, tax collector, and local government agree, March 1. The resolution shall clearly state its intent to use the uniform method of collecting such assessment. The local government shall publish notice of its intent to use the uniform method for collecting such assessment weekly in a newspaper of general circulation within each county contained in the boundaries of the local government for 4 consecutive weeks preceding the hearing or, in the case of a county or municipality, daily during the 4 consecutive weeks immediately preceding the hearing on a publicly accessible website maintained by the county or municipality. The resolution shall state the need for the levy and shall include a legal description of the boundaries of the real property subject to the levy. If the resolution is adopted, the local governing board shall send a copy of it by United States mail to the property appraiser, the tax collector, and the department by January 10 or, if the property appraiser, tax collector, and local government agree, March 10.

Section 19. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2), paragraph (g) of subsection (3), paragraph (b) of subsection (12), and paragraph (a) of subsection (14) of section 200.065, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

200.065 Method of fixing millage.-

(2) No millage shall be levied until a resolution or ordinance has been approved by the governing board of the taxing authority which resolution or ordinance must be approved by the

Page 26 of 36

taxing authority according to the following procedure:

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Within 15 days after the meeting adopting the tentative budget, the taxing authority shall advertise in a newspaper of general circulation in the county as provided in subsection $(3)_{\tau}$ its intent to finally adopt a millage rate and budget or, in the case of a county or municipality, may advertise on its publicly accessible website its intent to finally adopt a millage rate and budget, and shall maintain the notice on its website until completion of the hearing. If advertised in a newspaper, a public hearing to finalize the budget and adopt a millage rate shall be held not less than 2 days nor more than 5 days after the day that the advertisement is first published. During the hearing, the governing body of the taxing authority shall amend the adopted tentative budget as it sees fit, adopt a final budget, and adopt a resolution or ordinance stating the millage rate to be levied. The resolution or ordinance shall state the percent, if any, by which the millage rate to be levied exceeds the rolled-back rate computed pursuant to subsection (1), which shall be characterized as the percentage increase in property taxes adopted by the governing body. The adoption of the budget and the millage-levy resolution or ordinance shall be by separate votes. For each taxing authority levying millage, the name of the taxing authority, the rolled-back rate, the percentage increase, and the millage rate to be levied shall be publicly announced before prior to the adoption of the millage-levy resolution or ordinance. In no event may The millage rate adopted pursuant to this paragraph may not exceed the millage rate tentatively adopted pursuant to

Page 27 of 36

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paragraph (c). If the rate tentatively adopted pursuant to paragraph (c) exceeds the proposed rate provided to the property appraiser pursuant to paragraph (b), or as subsequently adjusted pursuant to subsection (11), each taxpayer within the jurisdiction of the taxing authority shall be sent notice by first-class mail of his or her taxes under the tentatively adopted millage rate and his or her taxes under the previously proposed rate. The notice must be prepared by the property appraiser, at the expense of the taxing authority, and must generally conform to the requirements of s. 200.069. If such additional notice is necessary, its mailing must precede the hearing held pursuant to this paragraph by not less than 10 days and not more than 15 days.

(3) The advertisement shall be no less than one-quarter page in size of a standard size or a tabloid size newspaper, and the headline in the advertisement shall be in a type no smaller than 18 point. The advertisement shall not be placed in that portion of the newspaper where legal notices and classified advertisements appear. The advertisement shall be published in a newspaper of general paid circulation in the county or in a geographically limited insert of such newspaper. The geographic boundaries in which such insert is circulated shall include the geographic boundaries of the taxing authority. It is the legislative intent that, whenever possible, the advertisement appear in a newspaper that is published at least 5 days a week unless the only newspaper in the county is published less than 5 days a week, or that the advertisement appear in a geographically limited insert of such newspaper which insert is

published throughout the taxing authority's jurisdiction at least twice each week. It is further the legislative intent that the newspaper selected be one of general interest and readership in the community and not one of limited subject matter, pursuant to chapter 50.

If In the event that the mailing of the notice of (q) proposed property taxes is delayed beyond September 3 in a county, any multicounty taxing authority which levies ad valorem taxes within that county shall advertise its intention to adopt a tentative budget and millage rate on a publicly accessible website maintained by the taxing authority or in a newspaper of paid general circulation within that county, as provided in this subsection, and shall hold the hearing required pursuant to paragraph (2)(c). If advertised in the newspaper, the hearing shall be held not less than 2 days or more than 5 days thereafter, and not later than September 18. If advertised on the website, the hearing shall be held not less than 2 days after initial publication of the advertisement on the website and not later than September 18, and shall remain on the website until the date of the hearing. The advertisement shall be in the following form, unless the proposed millage rate is less than or equal to the rolled-back rate, computed pursuant to subsection (1), in which case the advertisement shall be as provided in paragraph (e):

NOTICE OF TAX INCREASE

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The ... (name of the taxing authority)... proposes to increase its property tax levy by ... (percentage of increase

Page 29 of 36

over rolled-back rate) ... percent.

All concerned citizens are invited to attend a public hearing on the proposed tax increase to be held on ...(date and time)... at ...(meeting place)....

- (12) The time periods specified in this section shall be determined by using the date of certification of value pursuant to subsection (1) or July 1, whichever date is later, as day 1. The time periods shall be considered directory and may be shortened, provided:
- (b) Any public hearing preceded by a newspaper advertisement is held not less than 2 days or more than 5 days following publication of such advertisement and any public hearing preceded by advertisement on a website advertisement is held not less than 2 days after initial publication; and
- (14)(a) If the notice of proposed property taxes mailed to taxpayers under this section contains an error, the property appraiser, in lieu of mailing a corrected notice to all taxpayers, may correct the error by mailing a short form of the notice to those taxpayers affected by the error and its correction. The notice shall be prepared by the property appraiser at the expense of the taxing authority which caused the error or at the property appraiser's expense if he or she caused the error. The form of the notice must be approved by the executive director of the Department of Revenue or the executive director's designee. If the error involves only the date and time of the public hearings required by this section, the property appraiser, with the permission of the taxing authority affected by the error, may correct the error by advertising the

corrected information on a publicly accessible website maintained by the taxing authority or in a newspaper of general circulation in the county as provided in subsection (3).

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Section 20. Subsection (2) of section 255.0525, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

255.0525 Advertising for competitive bids or proposals.-

The solicitation of competitive bids or proposals for any county, municipality, or other political subdivision construction project that is projected to cost more than \$200,000 shall be publicly advertised at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the project is located at least 21 days before prior to the established bid opening and at least 5 days before prior to any scheduled prebid conference, or advertised daily during the 21-day period immediately preceding the established bid opening date and daily during the 5-day period immediately preceding any scheduled prebid conference on a publicly accessible website maintained by the entity responsible for publication. The solicitation of competitive bids or proposals for any county, municipality, or other political subdivision construction project that is projected to cost more than \$500,000 shall be publicly advertised at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the project is located at least 30 days before prior to the established bid opening and at least 5 days before prior to any scheduled prebid conference, or advertised daily during the 30-day period immediately preceding the established bid opening date and daily during the 5-day period immediately preceding any scheduled prebid conference on a

Page 31 of 36

publicly accessible website. Bids or proposals shall be received and opened at the location, date, and time established in the bid or proposal advertisement. In cases of emergency, the procedures required in this section may be altered by the local governmental entity in any manner that is reasonable under the emergency circumstances.

Section 21. Paragraph (e) of subsection (25) of section 380.06, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

380.06 Developments of regional impact.

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- (25) AREAWIDE DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL IMPACT.-
- The local government shall schedule a public hearing within 60 days after receipt of the petition. The public hearing shall be advertised at least 30 days before prior to the hearing. In addition to the public hearing notice by the local government, the petitioner, except when the petitioner is a local government, shall provide actual notice to each person owning land within the proposed areawide development plan at least 30 days before prior to the hearing. If the petitioner is a local government, or local governments pursuant to an interlocal agreement, notice of the public hearing shall be provided by the publication of an advertisement on a publicly accessible website maintained by the county or municipality responsible for publication or in a newspaper of general circulation that meets the requirements of this paragraph. The newspaper advertisement must be no less than one-quarter page in a standard size or tabloid size newspaper, and the headline in the newspaper advertisement must be in type no smaller than 18 point. The newspaper advertisement may shall not be published in

Page 32 of 36

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that portion of the newspaper where legal notices and classified advertisements appear. The advertisement must be published on a publicly accessible website maintained by the county or municipality responsible for publication or in a newspaper of general paid circulation in the county and of general interest and readership in the community, not one of limited subject matter, pursuant to chapter 50. Whenever possible, the newspaper advertisement must appear in a newspaper that is published at least 5 days a week, unless the only newspaper in the community is published less than 5 days a week. The advertisement must be in substantially the form used to advertise amendments to comprehensive plans pursuant to s. 163.3184. The local government shall specifically notify in writing the regional planning agency and the state land planning agency at least 30 days before prior to the public hearing. At the public hearing, all interested parties may testify and submit evidence regarding the petitioner's qualifications, the need for and benefits of an areawide development of regional impact, and such other issues relevant to a full consideration of the petition. If more than one local government has jurisdiction over the defined planning area in an areawide development plan, the local governments shall hold a joint public hearing. Such hearing shall address, at a minimum, the need to resolve conflicting ordinances or comprehensive plans, if any. The local government holding the joint hearing shall comply with the following additional requirements:

1. The notice of the hearing shall be published at least 60 days in advance of the hearing and shall specify where the

Page 33 of 36

petition may be reviewed.

2. The notice shall be given to the state land planning agency, to the applicable regional planning agency, and to such other persons as may have been designated by the state land planning agency as entitled to receive such notices.

- 3. A public hearing date shall be set by the appropriate local government at the next scheduled meeting.
- Section 22. Subsection (2) of section 403.7049, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 403.7049 Determination of full cost for solid waste management; local solid waste management fees.—
- (2)(a) Each municipality shall establish a system to inform, no less than once a year, residential and nonresidential users of solid waste management services within the municipality's service area of the user's share, on an average or individual basis, of the full cost for solid waste management as determined pursuant to subsection (1). Counties shall provide the information required of municipalities only to residential and nonresidential users of solid waste management services within the county's service area that are not served by a municipality. Municipalities shall include costs charged to them or persons contracting with them for disposal of solid waste in the full cost information provided to residential and nonresidential users of solid waste management services.
- (b) The public disclosure system requirements of this section shall be fulfilled by meeting one of the following:
- 1. By mailing a copy of the full cost information to each residential and nonresidential user of solid waste management

Page 34 of 36

service within the solid waste management service area of the county or municipality;

- 2. By enclosing a copy of the full cost information in or with a bill sent to each residential and nonresidential user of solid waste management services within the service area of the county or municipality;
- 3. By publishing a copy of the full cost information in a newspaper of general circulation within the county. Such notice shall be a display advertisement not less than one-quarter page in size; or
- 4. By advertising a copy of the full cost information daily for at least two consecutive weeks on a publicly accessible website maintained by the municipality.
- (c) (b) Counties and municipalities are encouraged to operate their solid waste management systems through use of an enterprise fund.
- Section 23. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 403.973, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 403.973 Expedited permitting; amendments to comprehensive plans.—
 - (2) As used in this section, the term:
- (a) "Duly noticed" means publication on a publicly accessible website maintained by the municipality or county having jurisdiction or in a newspaper of general circulation in the municipality or county having with jurisdiction. If published in a newspaper, the notice shall appear on at least 2 separate days, one of which shall be at least 7 days before the meeting. If published on a publicly accessible website, the

Page 35 of 36

notice shall appear daily during the 7 days immediately preceding the meeting. The notice shall state the date, time, and place of the meeting scheduled to discuss or enact the memorandum of agreement, and the places within the municipality or county where such proposed memorandum of agreement may be inspected by the public. The newspaper notice must be one-eighth of a page in size and must be published in a portion of the paper other than the legal notices section. The notice shall also advise that interested parties may appear at the meeting and be heard with respect to the memorandum of agreement.

Section 24. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section 420.9075, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

420.9075 Local housing assistance plans; partnerships.-

- (4) Each local housing assistance plan is governed by the following criteria and administrative procedures:
- (b) The county or eligible municipality or its administrative representative shall advertise the notice of funding availability in a newspaper of general circulation and periodicals serving ethnic and diverse neighborhoods, at least 30 days before the beginning of the application period or daily during the 30 days immediately preceding the application period on a publicly accessible website maintained by the county or eligible municipality. If no funding is available due to a waiting list, no notice of funding availability is required.

 Section 25. This act shall take effect October 1, 2011.