

By the Committees on Community Affairs; and Ethics and Elections; and Senator Abruzzo

578-03585-14

20141474c2

1 A bill to be entitled  
2 An act relating to public officers and employees;  
3 amending s. 112.326, F.S.; authorizing the electors of  
4 a political subdivision to impose additional or more  
5 stringent standards of conduct and disclosure  
6 requirements upon the political subdivision's officers  
7 and employees; providing that a respondent is entitled  
8 to a public hearing upon a finding of probable cause  
9 of a violation of a local ethics ordinance; requiring  
10 a local ethics ordinance to establish certain  
11 procedures; providing for construction; providing an  
12 effective date.

13  
14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

15  
16 Section 1. Section 112.326, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
17 read:

18 112.326 Additional requirements by political subdivisions  
19 and agencies not prohibited. ~~Nothing in~~ This part does not  
20 prohibit the electors or act shall prohibit the governing body  
21 of a any political subdivision, by ordinance, or agency, by  
22 rule, from imposing upon its own officers and employees  
23 additional or more stringent standards of conduct and disclosure  
24 requirements than those specified in this part, if provided that  
25 those standards of conduct and disclosure requirements do not  
26 otherwise conflict with the provisions of this part. If a local  
27 ethics agency, board, or commission determines that probable  
28 cause exists to believe a violation of a local ethics ordinance  
29 occurred, the respondent is entitled to a public hearing. The

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30 local ethics ordinance shall establish procedures concerning  
31 request of, and waiver of the right to, a public hearing. The  
32 respondent may elect to have the public hearing conducted by the  
33 local ethics agency, board, or commission, or by a hearing  
34 officer who is not a member of the local ethics agency, board,  
35 or commission. This section does not prohibit a respondent and  
36 the local ethics agency, board or commission from entering into  
37 a stipulation or consent agreement to resolve the allegations.

38 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.