

By Senator Diaz

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to local government fiscal  
3       transparency; amending s. 11.40, F.S.; expanding the  
4       scope of the Legislative Auditing Committee review to  
5       include compliance with local government fiscal  
6       transparency requirements; amending s. 11.45, F.S.;  
7       providing procedures for the Auditor General and local  
8       governments to comply with the local government fiscal  
9       transparency requirements; amending ss. 125.045 and  
10      166.021, F.S.; revising reporting requirements for  
11      certain local government economic development  
12      incentives; revising classifications for economic  
13      development incentives; requiring the Office of  
14      Economic and Demographic Research to compare certain  
15      results; transferring and renumbering s. 218.80, F.S.,  
16      relating to the Public Bid Disclosure Act; creating  
17      part VIII of ch. 218, F.S., consisting of ss. 218.801,  
18      218.803, 218.805, 218.81, 218.82, 218.83, 218.84,  
19      218.88, and 218.89, F.S.; providing a short title;  
20      providing a purpose; defining terms; requiring local  
21      governments to post certain voting record information  
22      on their websites; requiring such websites to provide  
23      links to related websites; requiring such websites and  
24      the information on such websites to comply with a  
25      specified federal law; requiring property appraisers  
26      and local governments to post certain property tax  
27      information and history on their websites; requiring  
28      public notices for public hearings and meetings before  
29      certain tax increases or the issuance of new tax-

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30 supported debt; specifying noticing and advertising  
31 requirements for such public hearings and meetings;  
32 requiring local governments to conduct certain debt  
33 affordability analyses under specified conditions;  
34 requiring audits of local governments to include  
35 affidavits signed by the chair of the local government  
36 governing board; requiring specified information to  
37 accompany audits of local governments and to be filed  
38 with the Auditor General; providing a method to post  
39 certain required information for local governments  
40 that do not operate a website; amending ss. 215.97 and  
41 218.32, F.S.; conforming cross-references; declaring  
42 that the act fulfills an important state interest;  
43 providing an effective date.

44  
45 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

46  
47 Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 11.40, Florida  
48 Statutes, is amended to read:

49 11.40 Legislative Auditing Committee.—

50 (2) Following notification by the Auditor General, the  
51 Department of Financial Services, the Division of Bond Finance  
52 of the State Board of Administration, the Governor or his or her  
53 designee, or the Commissioner of Education or his or her  
54 designee of the failure of a local governmental entity, district  
55 school board, charter school, or charter technical career center  
56 to comply with the applicable provisions within s. 11.45(5)-(7),  
57 s. 218.32(1), s. 218.38, ~~or~~ s. 218.503(3), or part VIII of  
58 chapter 218, the Legislative Auditing Committee may schedule a

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59 hearing to determine if the entity should be subject to further  
60 state action. If the committee determines that the entity should  
61 be subject to further state action, the committee shall:

62 (a) In the case of a local governmental entity or district  
63 school board, direct the Department of Revenue and the  
64 Department of Financial Services to withhold any funds not  
65 pledged for bond debt service satisfaction which are payable to  
66 such entity until the entity complies with the law. The  
67 committee shall specify the date that such action must begin,  
68 and the directive must be received by the Department of Revenue  
69 and the Department of Financial Services 30 days before the date  
70 of the distribution mandated by law. The Department of Revenue  
71 and the Department of Financial Services may implement this  
72 paragraph.

73 (b) In the case of a special district created by:

74 1. A special act, notify the President of the Senate, the  
75 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the standing committees  
76 of the Senate and the House of Representatives charged with  
77 special district oversight as determined by the presiding  
78 officers of each respective chamber, the legislators who  
79 represent a portion of the geographical jurisdiction of the  
80 special district, and the Department of Economic Opportunity  
81 that the special district has failed to comply with the law.  
82 Upon receipt of notification, the Department of Economic  
83 Opportunity shall proceed pursuant to s. 189.062 or s. 189.067.  
84 If the special district remains in noncompliance after the  
85 process set forth in s. 189.0651, or if a public hearing is not  
86 held, the Legislative Auditing Committee may request the  
87 department to proceed pursuant to s. 189.067(3).

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88           2. A local ordinance, notify the chair or equivalent of the  
89 local general-purpose government pursuant to s. 189.0652 and the  
90 Department of Economic Opportunity that the special district has  
91 failed to comply with the law. Upon receipt of notification, the  
92 department shall proceed pursuant to s. 189.062 or s. 189.067.  
93 If the special district remains in noncompliance after the  
94 process set forth in s. 189.0652, or if a public hearing is not  
95 held, the Legislative Auditing Committee may request the  
96 department to proceed pursuant to s. 189.067(3).

97           3. Any manner other than a special act or local ordinance,  
98 notify the Department of Economic Opportunity that the special  
99 district has failed to comply with the law. Upon receipt of  
100 notification, the department shall proceed pursuant to s.  
101 189.062 or s. 189.067(3).

102           (c) In the case of a charter school or charter technical  
103 career center, notify the appropriate sponsoring entity, which  
104 may terminate the charter pursuant to ss. 1002.33 and 1002.34.

105           Section 2. Paragraphs (d) through (j) of subsection (7) of  
106 section 11.45, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs  
107 (e) through (k), respectively, and a new paragraph (d) is added  
108 to that subsection, to read:

109           11.45 Definitions; duties; authorities; reports; rules.—

110           (7) AUDITOR GENERAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

111           (d) During the Auditor General's review of audit reports,  
112 the Auditor General shall contact each local government, as  
113 defined in s. 218.805(2), that is not in compliance with part  
114 VIII of chapter 218 and request evidence of corrective action.  
115 The local government shall provide the Auditor General with  
116 evidence of the initiation of corrective action within 45 days

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117 after the date it is requested by the Auditor General and  
 118 evidence of completion of corrective action within 180 days  
 119 after the date it is requested by the Auditor General. If the  
 120 local government fails to comply with the Auditor General's  
 121 request or is unable to take corrective action within the  
 122 required timeframe, the Auditor General shall notify the  
 123 Legislative Auditing Committee.

124 Section 3. Subsection (5) of section 125.045, Florida  
 125 Statutes, is amended to read:

126 125.045 County economic development powers.—

127 (5) (a) By January 15 of each year ~~By January 15, 2011, and~~  
 128 ~~annually thereafter~~, each county shall report to the Office of  
 129 Economic and Demographic Research ~~the~~ economic development  
 130 incentives in excess of \$25,000 given to each business ~~any~~  
 131 ~~business~~ during the county's previous fiscal year. The Office of  
 132 Economic and Demographic Research shall compile the information  
 133 from the counties into a report and provide the report to the  
 134 President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
 135 Representatives, and the Department of Economic Opportunity.  
 136 Each county must identify whether the economic development  
 137 incentives were provided directly by the county or by another  
 138 entity on behalf of the county, as well as the source of local  
 139 dollars and any state or federal dollars obligated for the  
 140 incentive. Economic development incentives are classified as  
 141 follows include:

142 1. Class I: Direct ~~Financial~~ incentives ~~of monetary~~  
 143 ~~assistance~~ provided to an individual ~~a business from the county~~  
 144 ~~or through an organization authorized by the county~~. Such  
 145 incentives include: ~~, but are not limited to, grants, loans,~~

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146 ~~equity investments, loan insurance and guarantees, and training~~  
147 ~~subsidies.~~

148 a. Grants.

149 b. Tax-based credits, refunds, or exemptions.

150 c. Fee-based credits, refunds, or exemptions.

151 d. Loans, loan insurance, or loan guarantees.

152 e. Below-market rate leases or deeds for real property.

153 f. Job training or recruitment.

154 g. Subsidized or discounted government services.

155 h. Infrastructure improvements.

156 2. Class II: General assistance, services, and support  
157 provided collectively to businesses with a common interest or  
158 purpose. Such incentives include:

159 a. Technical assistance and training.

160 b. Business incubators and accelerators.

161 c. Infrastructure improvements ~~Indirect incentives in the~~  
162 ~~form of grants and loans provided to businesses and community~~  
163 ~~organizations that provide support to businesses or promote~~  
164 ~~business investment or development.~~

165 3. Class III: Business recruitment, retention, or expansion  
166 efforts provided to benefit an individual business or class of  
167 businesses. Such incentives include:

168 a. Marketing and market research.

169 b. Trade missions and trade shows.

170 c. Site selection.

171 d. Targeted assistance with the permitting and licensing  
172 process.

173 e. Business plan or project development ~~Fee-based or tax-~~  
174 ~~based incentives, including, but not limited to, credits,~~

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175 ~~refunds, exemptions, and property tax abatement or assessment~~  
176 ~~reductions.~~

177 ~~4. Below-market rate leases or deeds for real property.~~

178 (b) A county shall report its economic development  
179 incentives in the format specified by the Office of Economic and  
180 Demographic Research.

181 (c) The Office of Economic and Demographic Research shall  
182 compile the economic development incentives provided by each  
183 county in a manner that shows the total of each class of  
184 economic development incentives provided by each county and all  
185 counties. To the extent possible, the office shall compare the  
186 results of the economic development incentives provided by all  
187 counties to the results of state incentives provided within  
188 similar classes.

189 Section 4. Paragraph (e) of subsection (8) of section  
190 166.021, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

191 166.021 Powers.—

192 (8)

193 (e)1. By January 15 of each year ~~By January 15, 2011, and~~  
194 ~~annually thereafter,~~ each municipality having annual revenues or  
195 expenditures greater than \$250,000 shall report to the Office of  
196 Economic and Demographic Research ~~the~~ economic development  
197 incentives in excess of \$25,000 given to each business ~~any~~  
198 ~~business~~ during the municipality's previous fiscal year. The  
199 Office of Economic and Demographic Research shall compile the  
200 information from the municipalities into a report and provide  
201 the report to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the  
202 House of Representatives, and the Department of Economic  
203 Opportunity. Each municipality must identify whether the

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204 economic development incentives were provided directly by the  
 205 municipality or by another entity on behalf of the municipality,  
 206 as well as the source of local dollars and any state or federal  
 207 dollars obligated for the incentive. Economic development  
 208 incentives are classified as follows ~~include:~~

209 a. Class I: Direct Financial incentives of monetary  
 210 assistance provided to an individual a business from the  
 211 municipality or through an organization authorized by the  
 212 municipality. Such incentives include:, ~~but are not limited to,~~  
 213 ~~grants, loans, equity investments, loan insurance and~~  
 214 ~~guarantees, and training subsidies.~~

215 (I) Grants.

216 (II) Tax-based credits, refunds, or exemptions.

217 (III) Fee-based credits, refunds, or exemptions.

218 (IV) Loans, loan insurance, or loan guarantees.

219 (V) Below-market rate leases or deeds for real property.

220 (VI) Job training or recruitment.

221 (VII) Subsidized or discounted government services.

222 (VIII) Infrastructure improvements.

223 b. Class II: General assistance, services, and support  
 224 provided collectively to businesses with a common interest or  
 225 purpose. Such incentives include:

226 (I) Technical assistance and training.

227 (II) Business incubators and accelerators.

228 (III) Infrastructure improvements ~~Indirect incentives in~~  
 229 ~~the form of grants and loans provided to businesses and~~  
 230 ~~community organizations that provide support to businesses or~~  
 231 ~~promote business investment or development.~~

232 c. Class III: Business recruitment, retention, or expansion



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233 efforts provided to benefit an individual business or class of  
234 businesses. Such incentives include:

235 (I) Marketing and market research.

236 (II) Trade missions and trade shows.

237 (III) Site selection.

238 (IV) Targeted assistance with the permitting and licensing  
239 process.

240 (V) Business plan or project development ~~Fee-based or tax-~~  
241 ~~based incentives, including, but not limited to, credits,~~  
242 ~~refunds, exemptions, and property tax abatement or assessment~~  
243 ~~reductions.~~

244 ~~d. Below-market rate leases or deeds for real property.~~

245 2. A municipality shall report its economic development  
246 incentives in the format specified by the Office of Economic and  
247 Demographic Research.

248 3. The Office of Economic and Demographic Research shall  
249 compile the economic development incentives provided by each  
250 municipality in a manner that shows the total of each class of  
251 economic development incentives provided by each municipality  
252 and all municipalities. To the extent possible, the office shall  
253 compare the results of the economic development incentives  
254 provided by all municipalities to the results of state  
255 incentives provided in similar classes.

256 Section 5. Section 218.80, Florida Statutes, is transferred  
257 and renumbered as section 218.795, Florida Statutes.

258 Section 6. Part VIII of chapter 218, Florida Statutes,  
259 consisting of sections 218.801, 218.803, 218.805, 218.81,  
260 218.82, 218.83, 218.84, 218.88, and 218.89, is created to read:

261 PART VIII

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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 by requiring additional public noticing of proposed local government actions that increase taxes, enact new taxes, 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, lease-purchase agreements, certificates of participation, installment sales, leases, or any other financing mechanisms or financial arrangements, regardless of whether they are debt for legal purposes or for financing or refinancing the acquisition, construction, improvement, or purchase of capital outlay projects.

(2) “Local government” means any county, municipality, school district, special district dependent upon 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, or 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 described in s. 200.065(1).

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291 (b) For all other taxes, an increase in the tax rate, the  
292 enactment of a new tax, or an extension of a tax.

293 (4) "Tax-supported debt" means debt with a duration of more  
294 than 5 years secured in whole or in part by state or local tax  
295 levies, regardless of whether such security is direct or  
296 indirect or explicit or implicit, and includes debt for which  
297 annual appropriations pledged for payment are from government  
298 fund types receiving tax revenues or shared revenues from state  
299 tax sources. The term does not include debt secured solely by  
300 revenues generated by the project that is financed with the  
301 debt.

302 218.81 Voting record access.—

303 (1) Each local government shall post on its website, in a  
304 manner that is easily accessible to the public, a history of the  
305 voting record of each action taken by the local governing board  
306 that addressed a tax increase or new tax-supported debt  
307 issuance, except debt that was refinanced or refunded and that  
308 did not extend the term or increase the outstanding principal  
309 amount of the original debt, as follows:

310 (a) By October 1, 2020, the voting record history from the  
311 preceding year.

312 (b) By October 1, 2021, the voting record history from the  
313 preceding 2 years.

314 (c) By October 1, 2022, the voting record history from the  
315 preceding 3 years.

316 (d) By October 1, 2023, and each October 1 thereafter, the  
317 voting record history from the preceding 4 years.

318 (2) The website must provide links to allow users to  
319 navigate to related websites if supporting details or

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320 documentation are available, and the websites and the  
321 information on those websites must comply with the Americans  
322 with Disabilities Act.

323 (3) In each public notice of a tax increase or the issuance  
324 of new tax-supported debt, each local government shall include  
325 with the public notice the website address at which the voting  
326 records can be accessed.

327 218.82 Property tax information and history.—

328 (1) Each county property appraiser, as defined in s.  
329 192.001, shall maintain a website that includes, in a manner  
330 easily accessible to the public, links that provide access to:

331 (a) The notice of proposed property taxes and non-ad  
332 valorem assessments required under s. 200.069 for each parcel of  
333 property in the county.

334 (b) A history of the millage rate and the amount of tax  
335 levied by each taxing authority on each parcel in the county as  
336 follows:

337 1. By October 1, 2020, the history from the preceding 2  
338 years.

339 2. By October 1, 2021, the history from the preceding 3  
340 years.

341 3. By October 1, 2022, and each October 1 thereafter, the  
342 history from the preceding 4 years.

343  
344 This subsection does not apply to information that is otherwise  
345 exempt from public disclosure.

346 (2) Each local government shall post on its website, in a  
347 manner that is easily accessible to the public, links that  
348 provide access to a history of each of its millage rates and the

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349 total annual amount of revenue generated by each of these  
350 levies, as follows:

351 (a) By October 1, 2020, the history from the preceding 2  
352 years.

353 (b) By October 1, 2021, the history from the preceding 3  
354 years.

355 (c) By October 1, 2022, and each October 1 thereafter, the  
356 history from the preceding 4 years.

357 218.83 Expanded public noticing of tax increases and  
358 issuance of new tax-supported debt.—

359 (1) For purposes of this section, the term "tax increase"  
360 does not include an ad valorem tax increase and the term "tax-  
361 supported debt" does not include debt approved by referendum and  
362 secured by ad valorem taxes.

363 (2) A local government that intends to vote on a proposed  
364 tax increase or the issuance of new tax-supported debt shall  
365 advertise a public hearing to solicit public input concerning  
366 the proposed tax increase or the issuance of new tax-supported  
367 debt. This public hearing must occur at least 14 days before the  
368 scheduled date of the local governing board meeting to take a  
369 final vote on the proposed tax increase or the issuance of new  
370 tax-supported debt. Any hearing required under this subsection  
371 shall be held after 5 p.m. if scheduled on a day other than  
372 Saturday. A hearing may not be held on a Sunday. The general  
373 public must be allowed to speak and to ask questions relevant to  
374 the proposed tax increase or the issuance of new tax-supported  
375 debt. The local government shall provide public notice as  
376 provided in subsection (4).

377 (3) (a) If, following the public hearing, the local

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378 government intends to proceed with a vote to approve a tax  
379 increase or the issuance of tax-supported debt, the local  
380 government shall provide public notice in the manner set forth  
381 in subsection (4) at least 10 days before the scheduled public  
382 meeting date.

383 (b) For a proposed tax increase, the notice shall also  
384 include, at a minimum:

385 1. A statement prominently posted that the local government  
386 intends to vote on a proposed tax, tax extension, or tax  
387 increase.

388 2. The time and place of the public meeting.

389 3. The amount of the tax increase, including both the rate  
390 and the total amount of annual revenue expected to be generated  
391 and the expected annual revenue expressed as a percentage of the  
392 government's general fund revenue.

393 4. A detailed explanation of the intended uses of the levy.

394 5. A statement indicating whether the local government  
395 expects to use the proceeds to secure debt.

396 (c) For new tax-supported debt issuance, the notice shall  
397 also include, at a minimum:

398 1. A statement prominently posted that the local government  
399 intends to vote on a proposed new issuance of tax-supported  
400 debt.

401 2. The time and place of the public meeting.

402 3. A truth-in-bonding statement in substantially the  
403 following form:

404 "The ... (insert local government name) ... is proposing to  
405 issue \$... (insert principal) ... of debt or obligation for the  
406 purpose of ... (insert purpose) .... This debt or obligation is

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407 expected to be repaid over a period of ... (insert term of  
408 issue)... years. At a forecasted interest rate of ... (insert  
409 rate of interest)..., total interest paid over the life of the  
410 debt or obligation will be \$... (insert sum of interest  
411 payments).... The source of repayment or security for this  
412 proposal is the ... (insert the local government name)...  
413 existing ... (insert fund).... Authorizing this debt or  
414 obligation will result in \$... (insert the annual amount)... of  
415 ... (insert local government name)... ... (insert fund)... moneys  
416 not being available to finance the other services of the  
417 ... (insert local government name)... each year for ... (insert  
418 the length of the debt or obligation)...."

419 4. A description of the debt affordability ratios  
420 calculated pursuant to s. 218.84 in substantially the following  
421 form:

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

429 (4) The notice provided by a local government announcing a  
430 public hearing to take public input as provided in subsection  
431 (2) or the public meeting to take a final vote as provided in  
432 subsection (3) must meet the following requirements:

433 (a) The local government must advertise notice in a  
434 newspaper of general circulation in the county or counties in  
435 which the local government exists. A local government may

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436 advertise in a geographically limited insert of a newspaper of  
437 general circulation if the region encompassed by the insert  
438 contains the jurisdictional boundaries of the local government.  
439 The newspaper must be of general interest to readership in the  
440 community and not one of limited subject matter pursuant to  
441 chapter 50. The notice:

442 1. Must be at least one-quarter page in size in a newspaper  
443 of standard size or one-half page in size in a newspaper of  
444 tabloid size and the headline of the notice must be in at least  
445 18-point font.

446 2. May not be placed in that portion of the newspaper in  
447 which legal notices and classified advertisements appear.

448 3. Must appear in a newspaper that is published at least 5  
449 days a week unless the only newspaper in the county is published  
450 fewer than 5 days a week. If the notice appears in a  
451 geographically limited insert of a newspaper of general  
452 circulation, the insert must be one that is published at least  
453 twice a week throughout the local government's jurisdiction.

454  
455 In lieu of publishing the notice, the local government may mail  
456 a copy of the notice to each elector residing within the  
457 jurisdiction of the local government.

458 (b) The local government must post on its website in a  
459 manner that is easily accessible to the public the information  
460 required under subsections (2) and (3), as applicable.

461 (5) This section does not apply to the refinancing or  
462 refunding of debt that does not extend the term or increase the  
463 outstanding principal amount of the original debt.

464 218.84 Local government debt fiscal responsibility.-



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465 (1) It is the public policy of this state to encourage  
466 local governments to exercise prudence in authorizing and  
467 issuing debt. Before a local government authorizes debt, it must  
468 consider its ability to meet its total debt service obligations  
469 in light of other demands on the local government's fiscal  
470 resources. Each local government shall perform a debt  
471 affordability analysis as set forth in subsection (2), and the  
472 governing board shall consider the analysis before approving the  
473 issuance of new tax-supported debt.

474 (2) The debt affordability analysis shall, at a minimum,  
475 consist of the calculation of the local government's actual debt  
476 affordability ratio for the 5 fiscal years before the year the  
477 debt is expected to be issued and a projection of the ratio for  
478 at least the first 2 fiscal years in which the debt is expected  
479 to be issued. The analysis shall include a comparison of the  
480 debt affordability ratio with and without the new debt issuance.

481 (3) The debt affordability ratio for a given fiscal year  
482 shall be a ratio:

483 (a) The numerator of which is the total annual debt service  
484 for outstanding tax-supported debt of the local government.

485 (b) The denominator of which is the total annual revenues  
486 available to pay debt service on outstanding tax-supported debt  
487 of the local government.

488 218.88 Audits.—Audits of financial statements of local  
489 governments that are performed by a certified public accountant  
490 pursuant to s. 218.39 and submitted to the Auditor General must  
491 be accompanied by an affidavit executed by the chair of the  
492 governing board of the local government, as a separate document,  
493 stating that the local government has complied with this part

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494 and must be filed with the Auditor General or, if the local  
495 government has not complied with this part, the affidavit shall  
496 include a description of the noncompliance and corrective action  
497 taken by the local government to correct the noncompliance and  
498 to prevent such noncompliance in the future.

499 218.89 Local government websites.—If a local government is  
500 required under this part to post information on its website but  
501 does not operate an official website, the local government must  
502 provide the county or counties in which the local government is  
503 located the information required to be posted, and each such  
504 county shall post the required information on its website.

505 Section 7. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section  
506 215.97, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

507 215.97 Florida Single Audit Act.—

508 (2) As used in this section, the term:

509 (a) "Audit threshold" means the threshold amount used to  
510 determine when a state single audit or project-specific audit of  
511 a nonstate entity shall be conducted in accordance with this  
512 section. Each nonstate entity that expends a total amount of  
513 state financial assistance equal to or in excess of \$750,000 in  
514 any fiscal year of such nonstate entity shall be required to  
515 have a state single audit or a project-specific audit for such  
516 fiscal year in accordance with the requirements of this section.  
517 After consulting with the Executive Office of the Governor, the  
518 Department of Financial Services, and all state awarding  
519 agencies, the Auditor General shall periodically review the  
520 threshold amount for requiring audits under this section and may  
521 recommend any appropriate statutory change to revise the  
522 threshold amount in the annual report submitted to the

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523 Legislature pursuant to s. 11.45(7)(i) ~~s. 11.45(7)(h)~~.

524 Section 8. Paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of section  
525 218.32, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

526 218.32 Annual financial reports; local governmental  
527 entities.—

528 (1)

529 (e) Each local governmental entity that is not required to  
530 provide for an audit under s. 218.39 must submit the annual  
531 financial report to the department no later than 9 months after  
532 the end of the fiscal year. The department shall consult with  
533 the Auditor General in the development of the format of annual  
534 financial reports submitted pursuant to this paragraph. The  
535 format must include balance sheet information used by the  
536 Auditor General pursuant to s. 11.45(7)(g) ~~s. 11.45(7)(f)~~. The  
537 department must forward the financial information contained  
538 within the annual financial reports to the Auditor General in  
539 electronic form. This paragraph does not apply to housing  
540 authorities created under chapter 421.

541 Section 9. The Legislature finds that this act fulfills an  
542 important state interest.

543 Section 10. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.