

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to local government reporting;
3 amending ss. 129.03 and 166.241, F.S.; deleting an
4 annual requirement for county budget officers and
5 municipal budget officers, respectively, to report
6 specified budget information to the Office of Economic
7 and Demographic Research; creating s. 218.323, F.S.;
8 providing legislative intent; requiring each county
9 and municipality to annually report specified fiscal
10 and economic information to the Department of
11 Financial Services; requiring the department to adopt
12 rules; requiring the department to establish a certain
13 website by a specified date; requiring the department
14 to annually generate and distribute to residents a
15 specified local government report; specifying
16 requirements for preparing and distributing the
17 report; specifying required information in the report;
18 specifying required information on the department's
19 website; authorizing the department to select
20 contractors for certain purposes; providing a
21 procurement requirement; providing an effective date.

22
23 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
24

25 Section 1. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section

26 | 129.03, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

27 | 129.03 Preparation and adoption of budget.—

28 | (3) The county budget officer, after tentatively
 29 | ascertaining the proposed fiscal policies of the board for the
 30 | next fiscal year, shall prepare and present to the board a
 31 | tentative budget for the next fiscal year for each of the funds
 32 | provided in this chapter, including all estimated receipts,
 33 | taxes to be levied, and balances expected to be brought forward
 34 | and all estimated expenditures, reserves, and balances to be
 35 | carried over at the end of the year.

36 | ~~(d) By October 15, 2019, and each October 15 annually~~
 37 | ~~thereafter, the county budget officer shall electronically~~
 38 | ~~submit the following information regarding the final budget and~~
 39 | ~~the county's economic status to the Office of Economic and~~
 40 | ~~Demographic Research in the format specified by the office:~~

41 | ~~1. Government spending per resident, including, at a~~
 42 | ~~minimum, the spending per resident for the previous 5 fiscal~~
 43 | ~~years.~~

44 | ~~2. Government debt per resident, including, at a minimum,~~
 45 | ~~the debt per resident for the previous 5 fiscal years.~~

46 | ~~3. Median income within the county.~~

47 | ~~4. The average county employee salary.~~

48 | ~~5. Percent of budget spent on salaries and benefits for~~
 49 | ~~county employees.~~

50 | ~~6. Number of special taxing districts, wholly or~~

51 ~~partially, within the county.~~

52 Section 2. Subsection (5) of section 166.241, Florida
53 Statutes is renumbered as subsection (4), present subsections
54 (4) and (6) of that section are amended to read:

55 166.241 Fiscal years, budgets, and budget amendments.—

56 ~~(4) Beginning October 15, 2019, and each October 15~~
57 ~~thereafter, the municipal budget officer shall electronically~~
58 ~~submit the following information regarding the final budget and~~
59 ~~the municipality's economic status to the Office of Economic and~~
60 ~~Demographic Research in the format specified by the office:~~

61 ~~(a) Government spending per resident, including, at a~~
62 ~~minimum, the spending per resident for the previous 5 fiscal~~
63 ~~years.~~

64 ~~(b) Government debt per resident, including, at a minimum,~~
65 ~~the debt per resident for the previous 5 fiscal years.~~

66 ~~(c) Average municipal employee salary.~~

67 ~~(d) Median income within the municipality.~~

68 ~~(e) Number of special taxing districts wholly or partially~~
69 ~~within the municipality.~~

70 ~~(f) Percent of budget spent on salaries and benefits for~~
71 ~~municipal employees.~~

72 (5)~~(6)~~ If the governing body of a municipality amends the
73 budget pursuant to paragraph (4) (c) ~~(5) (e)~~, the adopted
74 amendment must be posted on the official website of the
75 municipality within 5 days after adoption and must remain on the

76 | website for at least 2 years. If the municipality does not
77 | operate an official website, the municipality must, within a
78 | reasonable period of time as established by the county or
79 | counties in which the municipality is located, transmit the
80 | adopted amendment to the manager or administrator of such county
81 | or counties who shall post the adopted amendment on the county's
82 | website.

83 | Section 3. Section 218.323, Florida Statutes, is created
84 | to read:

85 | 218.323 County and municipal fiscal and economic
86 | information; reporting requirement.-

87 | (1) The Legislature intends to create an interactive
88 | repository for county and municipal financial information and to
89 | distribute a report that enables residents to compare the fiscal
90 | and economic status of counties and municipalities.

91 | (2) By October 15, 2020, and each October 15 thereafter,
92 | each county and each municipality shall electronically submit to
93 | the department, in the method and format established by
94 | department rule, the information necessary to facilitate the
95 | preparation of the local government report and interactive
96 | website created pursuant to subsection (3).

97 | (3) (a) By January 15, 2021, the department must establish
98 | an interactive website that allows residents to compare certain
99 | information about counties and municipalities. By January 15,
100 | 2021, and each January 15 thereafter, the department must

101 generate and distribute a local government report depicting the
102 fiscal and economic status of each county and municipality and
103 providing a comparative ranking with all other counties and
104 municipalities.

105 (b) The local government report must be mailed to each
106 household with a registered voter at the address. The local
107 government report must be specific to the household's
108 municipality and county. Each household not residing within a
109 municipality must receive a local government report specific to
110 the household's county. The local government report must assist
111 the household in making direct comparisons of fiscal and
112 economic metrics, must be a single page and use colorful
113 graphics, and must provide the following information in an easy
114 to understand format:

115 1. The government spending per resident, including the
116 per-resident spending for the past 5 fiscal years. The local
117 government report must depict total per-resident spending for
118 the county or municipality, as applicable, and the rank for the
119 county or municipality compared to all counties or
120 municipalities, as applicable.

121 2. The government debt per resident, including the per-
122 resident debt for the previous 5 fiscal years. The local
123 government report must depict the total debt for the county or
124 municipality, as applicable, and the rank for the county or
125 municipality compared to all counties or municipalities, as

126 applicable.

127 3. The average county or municipal employee salary, as
128 applicable.

129 4. The median income. The local government report must
130 depict the median income for the county or municipality, as
131 applicable, and the rank for the county or municipality compared
132 to all counties or municipalities, as applicable.

133 5. The average school grade for the county or
134 municipality, as applicable.

135 6. The crime rate for the county. The local government
136 report must depict the crime rate for the county and the rank
137 for the county compared to all counties.

138 (c) In addition to the information included in the local
139 government report required under paragraph (b), the interactive
140 website must, at a minimum, include the following information:

141 1. The population of the county or municipality, as
142 applicable.

143 2. The unemployment rate for the county or municipality,
144 as applicable.

145 3. The percent of budget spent on salaries and benefits
146 for county or municipal employees, as applicable. The website
147 must depict the percent of budget spent on salaries and benefits
148 for the county or municipality, as applicable, and the rank for
149 the county or municipality compared to all counties or
150 municipalities, as applicable.

151 4. The number of special taxing districts, wholly or
152 partially, within the county or municipality, as applicable.

153 5. The government revenue per resident for the county or
154 municipality, as applicable. The website must depict government
155 revenue per resident for the county or municipality, as
156 applicable, and the rank for the county or municipality compared
157 to all counties or municipalities, as applicable.

158 (4) The department may choose one or more contractors to
159 design and distribute the local government report to enable
160 residents to compare the fiscal and economic status data
161 reported by each county and municipality, and to create the
162 interactive website. The department must select contractors
163 through an open request for proposal process pursuant to chapter
164 287.

165 Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.