

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 a specified
9 comparison of data; requiring the department to
10 establish a certain website by a specified date;
11 requiring the department to annually generate and
12 distribute to residents a local government report
13 card; specifying requirements for preparing and
14 distributing the report card; specifying information
15 required to be included in the report; specifying
16 information required to be included on the
17 department's website; requiring each county and
18 municipality to annually report specified information
19 relating to government performance metrics to the
20 Department of Financial Services; requiring the
21 department to adopt rules; authorizing the department
22 to select contractors for certain purposes; providing
23 an appropriation; providing an effective date.

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

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

129.03 Preparation and adoption of budget.—

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

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

- ~~1. Government spending per resident, including, at a minimum, the spending per resident for the previous 5 fiscal years.~~
- ~~2. Government debt per resident, including, at a minimum, the debt per resident for the previous 5 fiscal years.~~
- ~~3. Median income within the county.~~
- ~~4. The average county employee salary.~~
- ~~5. Percent of budget spent on salaries and benefits for~~

51 ~~county employees.~~

52 ~~6. Number of special taxing districts, wholly or~~
53 ~~partially, within the county.~~

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

57 166.241 Fiscal years, budgets, and budget amendments.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

74 (5) ~~(6)~~ If the governing body of a municipality amends the
75 budget pursuant to paragraph (4) (c) ~~(5) (e)~~, the adopted

76 amendment must be posted on the official website of the
77 municipality within 5 days after adoption and must remain on the
78 website for at least 2 years. If the municipality does not
79 operate an official website, the municipality must, within a
80 reasonable period of time as established by the county or
81 counties in which the municipality is located, transmit the
82 adopted amendment to the manager or administrator of such county
83 or counties who shall post the adopted amendment on the county's
84 website.

85 Section 3. Section 218.323, Florida Statutes, is created
86 to read:

87 218.323 County and municipal fiscal and economic
88 information; reporting requirement.-

89 (1) The Legislature intends to create an interactive
90 repository for county and municipal financial information and to
91 distribute a report card to enable residents to compare
92 community conditions and government performance metrics of
93 counties and municipalities.

94 (2) The report card shall use a system of grades from "A"-
95 "D" based on the comparison of data submitted pursuant to this
96 section. A grade of "F" shall be awarded to any county or
97 municipality that fails to comply with subsection (4). The
98 report card must depict the value of the metrics used to
99 calculate the grade. The report card must also depict the
100 ranking of each county or municipality, as applicable, as

101 compared to other counties or municipalities, as applicable.

102 (3) (a) By January 15, 2021, the department must establish
103 an interactive website that allows residents to compare certain
104 information about counties and municipalities. By January 15,
105 2021, and each January 15 thereafter, the department must
106 generate and distribute a local government report card depicting
107 community conditions and government performance metrics of each
108 county and municipality and providing a comparative grading and
109 ranking with all other counties and municipalities. The grading
110 system and ranking may be separately applied to groups of
111 counties and municipalities based on population size.

112 (b) The local government report card must be mailed to
113 each household with a registered voter at the address. The local
114 government report card must be specific to the household's
115 municipality and county. Each household not residing within a
116 municipality must receive a local government report card
117 specific to the household's county. The local government report
118 card must use colorful graphics to facilitate direct comparisons
119 of community conditions and government performance metrics, must
120 be no more than the front and back of a single page, and must
121 provide the following information in an easy to understand
122 format:

123 1. The government spending grade, which is the combined
124 score of the annual average spending per resident for the past 5
125 fiscal years and the total dollar increase in spending over that

126 same period for the county or municipality, as applicable.

127 2. The government debt grade, which is the combined score
128 of the annual average per resident debt for the previous 5
129 fiscal years and the total dollar increase in debt over that
130 period for the county or municipality, as applicable.

131 3. The cost of government grade, which is the combined
132 score of the number of government employee full time equivalent
133 positions per 100,000 residents, the average public employee
134 salary, and the percent of government spending on salaries and
135 benefits for each county or municipality, as applicable.

136 4. The public safety grade, which is the combined score of
137 the violent crime rate, the property crime rate, and the total
138 crime clearance rate for each county or municipality, as
139 applicable.

140 5. The education grade, which is the combined score of the
141 average school grade and the graduation rate for schools within
142 the county or municipality, as applicable.

143 (c) In addition to the information included in the local
144 government report card required under paragraph (b), the
145 interactive website must, at a minimum, include the following
146 information:

147 1. The population of each county or municipality.

148 2. The unemployment rate for each county or municipality.

149 3. The percent of the population by educational attainment
150 within each county or municipality.

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

153 5. The government revenue per resident for each county or
154 municipality.

155 (4) By October 15, 2020, and each October 15 thereafter,
156 each county and each municipality shall electronically submit to
157 the department, in the method and format established by
158 department rule, information necessary to facilitate the
159 preparation of the local government report card and interactive
160 website specific to the metrics described in subparagraphs
161 (3) (b)1. through 3. and (3) (c)4. and 5.

162 (5) The department may choose one or more contractors to
163 design and distribute the local government report card to enable
164 residents to compare the fiscal and economic status data
165 reported by each county and municipality, and to create the
166 interactive website. The department must select contractors
167 through an open request for proposal process pursuant to chapter
168 287.

169 Section 4. For the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the recurring
170 sum of \$3 million is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund
171 to the Department of Financial Services to implement this act.

172 Section 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.