1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to development permits and orders; 3 amending ss. 125.022 and 166.033, F.S.; requiring 4 counties and municipalities, respectively, to meet 5 specified requirements regarding the minimum 6 information necessary for certain zoning applications; 7 revising timeframes for processing applications for 8 approvals of development permits or development 9 orders; defining the term "substantive change"; providing refund parameters in situations where the 10 11 county or municipality, respectively, fails to meet certain timeframes; providing exceptions; providing an 12 effective date. 13 14 15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 16 Section 125.022, Florida Statutes, is amended 17 Section 1. 18 to read: Development permits and orders. -19 20 A county must specify in writing the minimum 21 information that must be submitted in an application for a 22 zoning approval, rezoning approval, subdivision approval, 23 certification, special exception, or variance. A county must

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copying at the location where the county receives applications

make the minimum information available for inspection and

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for development permits and orders, provide the information to the applicant at a preapplication meeting, or post the information on the county's website.

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Within 5 business days after receiving an application for approval of a development permit or development order, a county shall confirm receipt of the application using contact information provided by the applicant. Within 30 days after receiving an application for approval of a development permit or development order, a county must review the application for completeness and issue a written notification to the applicant letter indicating that all required information is submitted or specify specifying with particularity any areas that are deficient. If the application is deficient, the applicant has 30 days to address the deficiencies by submitting the required additional information. For applications that do not require final action through a quasi-judicial hearing or a public hearing, the county must approve, approve with conditions, or deny the application for a development permit or development order within 120 days after the county has deemed the application complete., or 180 days For applications that require final action through a quasi-judicial hearing or a public hearing, the county must approve, approve with conditions, or deny the application for a development permit or development order within 180 days after the county has deemed the application complete. Both parties may agree in writing to a

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reasonable request for an extension of time, particularly in the event of a force majeure or other extraordinary circumstance. An approval, approval with conditions, or denial of the application for a development permit or development order must include written findings supporting the county's decision. The timeframes contained in this subsection do not apply in an area of critical state concern, as designated in s. 380.0552. The timeframes contained in this subsection restart if an applicant makes a substantive change to the application. As used in this subsection, the term "substantive change" means an applicantinitiated change of 15 percent or more in the proposed density, intensity, or square footage of a parcel.

- (3) (2) (a) When reviewing an application for a development permit or development order that is certified by a professional listed in s. 403.0877, a county may not request additional information from the applicant more than three times, unless the applicant waives the limitation in writing.
- (b) If a county makes a request for additional information and the applicant submits the required additional information within 30 days after receiving the request, the county must review the application for completeness and issue a letter indicating that all required information has been submitted or specify with particularity any areas that are deficient within 30 days after receiving the additional information.
 - (c) If a county makes a second request for additional

information and the applicant submits the required additional information within 30 days after receiving the request, the county must review the application for completeness and issue a letter indicating that all required information has been submitted or specify with particularity any areas that are deficient within 10 days after receiving the additional information.

- (d) Before a third request for additional information, the applicant must be offered a meeting to attempt to resolve outstanding issues. If a county makes a third request for additional information and the applicant submits the required additional information within 30 days after receiving the request, the county must deem the application complete within 10 days after receiving the additional information or proceed to process the application for approval or denial unless the applicant waived the county's limitation in writing as described in paragraph (a).
- (e) Except as provided in subsection (7) (5), if the applicant believes the request for additional information is not authorized by ordinance, rule, statute, or other legal authority, the county, at the applicant's request, shall proceed to process the application for approval or denial.
 - (4) A county must issue a refund to an applicant equal to:
- (a) Ten percent of the application fee if the county fails to issue written notification of completeness or written

101 specification of areas of deficiency within 30 days after 102 receiving the application. 103 (b) Ten percent of the application fee if the county fails 104 to issue a written notification of completeness or written 105 specification of areas of deficiency within 30 days after 106 receiving the additional information pursuant to paragraph 107 (3)(b).(c) Twenty percent of the application fee if the county 108 109 fails to issue a written notification of completeness or written specification of areas of deficiency within 10 days after 110 111 receiving the additional information pursuant to paragraph 112 (3)(c).(d) Fifty percent of the application fee if the county 113 114 fails to approve, approves with conditions, or denies the 115 application within 30 days after conclusion of the 120-day or 116 180-day timeframe specified in subsection (2). 117 (e) One hundred percent of the application fee if the 118 county fails to approve, approves with conditions, or denies an 119 application 31 days or more after conclusion of the 120-day or 120 180-day timeframe specified in subsection (2). 121 122 A county is not required to issue a refund if the applicant and 123 the county agree to an extension of time, the delay is caused by 124 the applicant, or the delay is attributable to a force majeure

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or other extraordinary circumstance.

(5)(3) When a county denies an application for a development permit or development order, the county shall give written notice to the applicant. The notice must include a citation to the applicable portions of an ordinance, rule, statute, or other legal authority for the denial of the permit or order.

 $\underline{(6)}$ (4) As used in this section, the terms "development permit" and "development order" have the same meaning as in s. 163.3164, but do not include building permits.

(7)(5) For any development permit application filed with the county after July 1, 2012, a county may not require as a condition of processing or issuing a development permit or development order that an applicant obtain a permit or approval from any state or federal agency unless the agency has issued a final agency action that denies the federal or state permit before the county action on the local development permit.

(8)(6) Issuance of a development permit or development order by a county does not in any way create any rights on the part of the applicant to obtain a permit from a state or federal agency and does not create any liability on the part of the county for issuance of the permit if the applicant fails to obtain requisite approvals or fulfill the obligations imposed by a state or federal agency or undertakes actions that result in a violation of state or federal law. A county shall attach such a disclaimer to the issuance of a development permit and shall

include a permit condition that all other applicable state or federal permits be obtained before commencement of the development.

(9)(7) This section does not prohibit a county from providing information to an applicant regarding what other state or federal permits may apply.

Section 2. Section 166.033, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

166.033 Development permits and orders.-

- information that must be submitted for an application for a zoning approval, rezoning approval, subdivision approval, certification, special exception, or variance. A municipality must make the minimum information available for inspection and copying at the location where the municipality receives applications for development permits and orders, provide the information to the applicant at a preapplication meeting, or post the information on the municipality's website.
- (2) Within 5 business days after receiving an application for approval of a development permit or development order, a municipality shall confirm receipt of the application using contact information provided by the applicant. Within 30 days after receiving an application for approval of a development permit or development order, a municipality must review the application for completeness and issue a written notification to

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the applicant letter indicating that all required information is submitted or specify specifying with particularity any areas that are deficient. If the application is deficient, the applicant has 30 days to address the deficiencies by submitting the required additional information. For applications that do not require final action through a quasi-judicial hearing or a public hearing, the municipality must approve, approve with conditions, or deny the application for a development permit or development order within 120 days after the municipality has deemed the application complete., or 180 days For applications that require final action through a quasi-judicial hearing or a public hearing, the municipality must approve, approve with conditions, or deny the application for a development permit or development order within 180 days after the municipality has deemed the application complete. Both parties may agree in writing to a reasonable request for an extension of time, particularly in the event of a force majeure or other extraordinary circumstance. An approval, approval with conditions, or denial of the application for a development permit or development order must include written findings supporting the municipality's decision. The timeframes contained in this subsection do not apply in an area of critical state concern, as designated in s. 380.0552 or chapter 28-36, Florida Administrative Code. The timeframes contained in this subsection restart if an applicant makes a substantive change to the

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application. As used in this subsection, the term "substantive change" means an applicant-initiated change of 15 percent or more in the proposed density, intensity, or square footage of a parcel.

- $\underline{(3)}$ (a) When reviewing an application for a development permit or development order that is certified by a professional listed in s. 403.0877, a municipality may not request additional information from the applicant more than three times, unless the applicant waives the limitation in writing.
- (b) If a municipality makes a request for additional information and the applicant submits the required additional information within 30 days after receiving the request, the municipality must review the application for completeness and issue a letter indicating that all required information has been submitted or specify with particularity any areas that are deficient within 30 days after receiving the additional information.
- (c) If a municipality makes a second request for additional information and the applicant submits the required additional information within 30 days after receiving the request, the municipality must review the application for completeness and issue a letter indicating that all required information has been submitted or specify with particularity any areas that are deficient within 10 days after receiving the additional information.

(d) Before a third request for additional information, the
applicant must be offered a meeting to attempt to resolve
outstanding issues. If a municipality makes a third request for
additional information and the applicant submits the required
additional information within 30 days after receiving the
request, the municipality must deem the application complete
within 10 days after receiving the additional information or
proceed to process the application for approval or denial unless
the applicant waived the municipality's limitation in writing as
described in paragraph (a).

- (e) Except as provided in subsection (7) (5), if the applicant believes the request for additional information is not authorized by ordinance, rule, statute, or other legal authority, the municipality, at the applicant's request, shall proceed to process the application for approval or denial.
- (4) A municipality must issue a refund to an applicant equal to:
- (a) Ten percent of the application fee if the municipality fails to issue written notification of completeness or written specification of areas of deficiency within 30 days after receiving the application.
- (b) Ten percent of the application fee if the municipality fails to issue written notification of completeness or written specification of areas of deficiency within 30 days after receiving the additional information pursuant to paragraph

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251 (3)(b).252 Twenty percent of the application fee if the 253 municipality fails to issue written notification of completeness 254 or written specification of areas of deficiency within 10 days 255 after receiving the additional information pursuant to paragraph 256 (3)(c).257 (d) Fifty percent of the application fee if the 258 municipality fails to approve, approves with conditions, or 259 denies the application within 30 days after conclusion of the 260 120-day or 180-day timeframe specified in subsection (2). 261 (e) One hundred percent of the application fee if the 262 municipality fails to approve, approves with conditions, or 263 denies an application 31 days or more after conclusion of the 264 120-day or 180-day timeframe specified in subsection (2). 265 266 A municipality is not required to issue a refund if the 267 applicant and the municipality agree to an extension of time, 268 the delay is caused by the applicant, or the delay is 269 attributable to a force majeure or other extraordinary 270 circumstance.

(5)(3) When a municipality denies an application for a development permit or development order, the municipality shall give written notice to the applicant. The notice must include a citation to the applicable portions of an ordinance, rule, statute, or other legal authority for the denial of the permit

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276 or order.

 $\underline{(6)}$ (4) As used in this section, the terms "development permit" and "development order" have the same meaning as in s. 163.3164, but do not include building permits.

(7)(5) For any development permit application filed with the municipality after July 1, 2012, a municipality may not require as a condition of processing or issuing a development permit or development order that an applicant obtain a permit or approval from any state or federal agency unless the agency has issued a final agency action that denies the federal or state permit before the municipal action on the local development permit.

(8)-(6) Issuance of a development permit or development order by a municipality does not create any right on the part of an applicant to obtain a permit from a state or federal agency and does not create any liability on the part of the municipality for issuance of the permit if the applicant fails to obtain requisite approvals or fulfill the obligations imposed by a state or federal agency or undertakes actions that result in a violation of state or federal law. A municipality shall attach such a disclaimer to the issuance of development permits and shall include a permit condition that all other applicable state or federal permits be obtained before commencement of the development.

(9) This section does not prohibit a municipality from

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providing information to an applicant regarding what other state or federal permits may apply.

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Section 3. This act shall take effect October 1, 2024.

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